EC 9/986

United States Department of State

May 1986

Ecuador
Post Report

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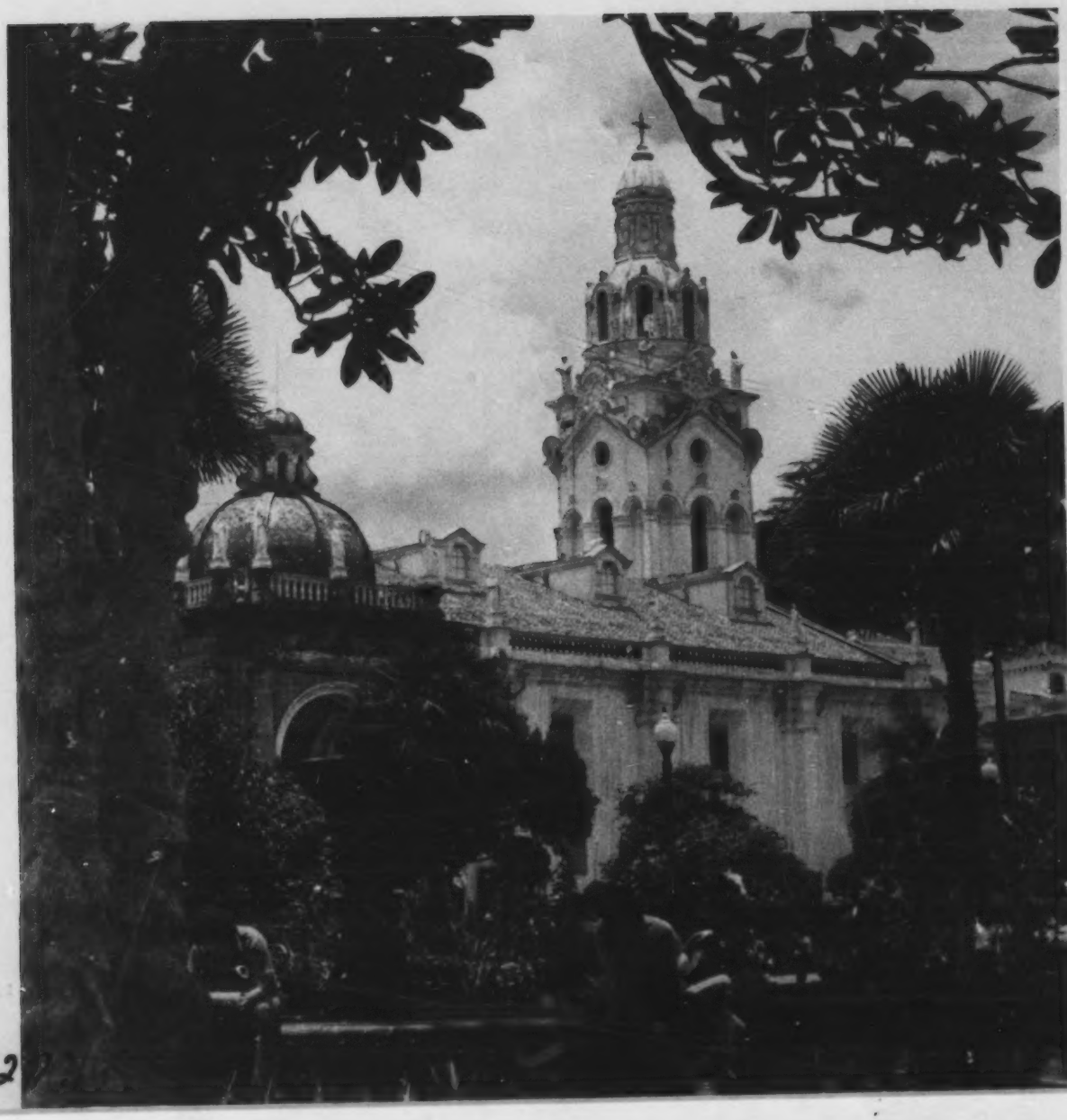

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Preface

Ecuador is not a large country, but it offers a striking variety of climates, customs, and cultures. The high, wide Andean plateau that dominates the country has been both a highway and a resting place for the Incan, Spanish, and mestizo civilizations that have shaped the nation's history. The lowland Amazonian jungle east of the mountains, home of the Auca and Jivaro Indians, is also the location of rough oil boom towns. The Pacific coastal plain to the west of the Andes is a land of tropical plantations, bustling port cities, and warm-water beaches. Six hundred miles from the coast lie the Galapagos, a chain of volcanic islands that are home to unique species of wildlife and a small number of islanders.

Quito is a city of sun and sky, set in agricultural highlands and surrounded by high mountains and snowcapped volcanoes. With a balance of equatorial sunshine and mountain chill, the climate varies little throughout the year. Some newcomers find it difficult to adjust to the thin air and burning sun at an altitude of 9,300 feet. Even the most athletic need to wait a week before undertaking any strenuous activity. Geographically and culturally Ecuador is close to the United States, but from time to time almost everyone feels far removed from the rest of the world.

Guayaquil is a complete contrast to the capital. It is a busy, noisy town. The natives are both more spirited and more openhanded than the reserved inhabitants of the Sierra. Like most port towns, Guayaquil is a center of commerce, a place where the shrewd can make a fortune or can capture and direct enough of the city's rough energy to make a successful political career.

This is the official post report prepared by the post. The information contained herein is directed to official U.S. Government employees and their families. Any other information concerning the facts as set forth herein is to be regarded as unofficial information.

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Cover: Quito's cathedral in the Plaza of Independence in the colonial sector.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE PUBLICATION 9293
Foreign Affairs Information Management Center
Publishing Services Division

Revised May 1986

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents
U. S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D. C. 20402

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The Host Country

Area, Geography, and Climate

Ecuador straddles the Equator, its namesake, on the west coast of South America, almost 3,000 miles due south of Washington, D.C. It is roughly the size of Colorado. Two north-south ranges of the Andes Mountains divide the country into three distinct sections: the Costa, a belt of tropical lowlands 10–100 miles wide along the Pacific coast where Guayaquil, the major city, is located; the Sierra, a highland plateau 3,000–10,000 feet high where Quito is located; and the Oriente, jungle lowlands east of the Andes that make up about half the country's area. In addition, the Galapagos Islands (Archipelago de Colon) lie 640 miles off the coast. The nine main islands are inhabited by some 8,000 people and the amazing variety of wildlife that has fascinated scientists ever since Charles Darwin visited there in 1836.

Ecuador claims an additional 100,000 square miles of territory in the Oriente, an area that includes navigable tributaries of the Amazon River. This territory was lost to Peru under the 1942 Rio Protocol of Peace, Friendship, and Boundaries, which the Ecuadorean people and Government have never fully accepted. The national motto proclaims, "Ecuador was, is, and will be an Amazonian nation." Revising the treaty is one of the government's foremost foreign policy objectives. Efforts to settle the dispute have been unsuccessful because of strong nationalistic feelings in both countries. In 1981 the armed forces of Peru and Ecuador clashed briefly along the disputed southern border.

Most of Ecuador is covered by equatorial forests. The rest consists of cultivated agricultural areas, some arid scrubland near the coast, and barren mountain ranges with 22 peaks over 14,000 feet high.

High in the Andes, Quito is ringed by snowcapped volcanoes.

These peaks include Chimborazo (20,561 feet) and Cotopaxi, which is the highest active volcano in the world (19,347 feet). The spectacular array of snowcapped volcanoes stretching north and south of Quito has been called the "Avenue of Volcanos," and on a clear day the view from an airplane is breathtaking. On the Pacific slope the principal rivers are the Esmeraldas and the Guayas. Eastern Ecuador is part of the Amazon watershed. Its principal rivers are the Napo and Pastaza Rivers. None of the Amazon tributaries in Ecuador is navigable by oceangoing vessels.

Because of variations in altitude, Ecuador has a variety of climates. The lowlands are generally hot and humid. Temperatures on the coast are moderated by the Humboldt Current and range of 65°F to 90°F. Temperatures in the Sierra are generally cool, ranging from 35°F to 75°F. Because of the altitude and rarified air, temperatures in direct sunlight can reach 85°F at midday; in the evenings it can range from pleasantly cool to very chilly. The tallest mountains are always snowcapped, but it never snows in the inhabited altitudes, although it hails occasionally. During the Sierra dry season, from June through September, gusty winds are common.

In Quito the temperature pattern rarely changes from day to day or month to month. Mornings are cool and crisp, and midday is agree-

ably warm unless skies are overcast. Fog and mist may occur in the mornings or evenings as low-lying clouds spill over the sides of the valley. Since Quito is such a short distance from the Equator, sunrise and sunset vary only slightly from 6 am and 6 pm. Average annual rainfall in Quito is 50 inches, with 43 inches falling from October through May, and 7 inches from June through September. Relative humidity averages 75%.

Occasional tremors are registered in the area. These may or may not be perceptible to residents. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are infrequent but do remain a possibility.

Population

Ecuador's projected 1985 population is 9,378,000. Of that number, about 40% are mestizo, 40% Indian, 10% white, 5% black, and 5% oriental and others. About half of the population lives in the Costa, where the principal group is mestizo. The average annual population growth rate is currently 2.9%.

The term "mestizo" has cultural significance in the Sierra. It is not simply a mixture of blood. An Indian who leaves his or her community, abandoning traditional dress, tribal ties, and native language, loses his or her Indian identity and is called a "mestizo."

Spanish is the official language, but Quichua, the language of the Incas, is still spoken by Indians who constitute about one-third of the population. In the Oriente, several indigenous languages and dialects survive. Some have no identifiable link with any recognized language families.

Internal migrations occur from the highlands to the coastal area and from the countryside to the cities. Today the population is divided about equally between the mountainous central highland region and the coastal lowlands.

Most of the population is Roman Catholic, though Protestant missionaries have been active in the country since the turn of the century. Religious freedom is observed.

Primary education is compulsory, and an estimated 85% of the population is literate. Both Catholic and Protestant missionaries have worked with indigenous peoples of the Oriente, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education. Public university education is free, and an open admissions policy prevails. Public and private university enrollment is large, although many students do not complete their studies. An extensive adult literacy program is underway.

History. Perhaps 50 independent pre-Columbian cultures flourished along the coast, in the Sierra, and in the Rio Napo region before the Incas conquered what is now Ecuador. Ceramics found in Valdivia date from 3200 B.C. and are among the oldest found in South America. Archeologists have discovered rich gold works, ceramics, weavings, and mummies at several important sites. Around the year A.D. 1200, two important nations emerged: the Caras on the coast and the Quitus in the Andes. These merged to form the Shyris nation, which was conquered by the Incas in the middle of the 15th century.

The Inca sovereign Huayna Capac consolidated his rule over the area in the early 1500s, just a few years before the first Spaniards landed on the shores of Ecuador. After seizing the treasures at Atacames on his first expedition along the coast from his base in Panama, Francisco Pizarro returned in 1532 to conquer the Inca kingdom, by then weakened by civil war. The last Inca king, Atahualpa, was held prisoner for ransom and then killed by Pizarro.

A long period of warfare against the native population followed, and the Spanish conquest destroyed all but a few of the Inca fortresses and temples. Quito was not subdued until Sebastian de Benalcazar took possession of the area, establishing San Franciso de Quito on December 6, 1534, on the site of the ancient Quitu capital. Guayaquil was founded a year later. Gonzalo Pizarro was named governor of the colony in 1540. He organized an expedition in Quito that resulted in the discovery of the Amazon River by Francisco Orellana. In 1563 Quito was made a Royal Audiencia, first as part of Lima's Viceroyalty of Peru, and then as Bogota's Viceroyalty of New Granada after 1718.

Exploration, colonization, and religious conversion of the Indians continued for almost three centuries until independence in 1822. The first schools were established by the religious orders of the Catholic Church. So many monasteries and sumptuous churches were built in Quito that it became known as "The Cloister of America." The combination of Spanish art and Indian handicraft led to a unique production of sculpture and painting in what is known as the Quiteno school of colonial art, with many extraordinary native artists such as Caspicara, Goribar, and Miguel de Santiago.

Land that had been taken from the Indians was granted to the religious communities and to the Spaniards who had served their king. During the 17th and 18th centuries, Negro slave labor was brought from the Caribbean to work the new plantations, and agriculture flourished. The colonial economy rested on three institutions: the "encomienda" (a system of serfdom), the "mita" (forced Indian labor in mines and public works), and the "obraje" (forced labor in textile factories). While the land legally belonged to the Spanish crown, the encomienda was the cession of land and people to the privileged. The Indians were supposed to receive the care of the patron and be instructed in the Catholic faith in exchange for personal services. The native population suffered greatly under this system.

A number of European scientists visited Ecuador in the 18th century. Charles de La Condamine of France headed a geodetic mission to confirm measurements of the Equator. Alexander von Humboldt made significant discoveries in natural science. Intellectual societies flourished in the capital and became centers of liberal political thought.

Eugenio Espejo preached independence and influenced many wealthy merchants and nobles who resented Spanish oppression, taxation, and trade restrictions. In 1809 a group of citizens overthrew the

Royal Audiencia, but Spanish rule was restored within 3 months. In 1820 Guayaquil again declared independence, and soon after Simon Bolivar sent Antonio Jose de Sucre into Ecuador to lead a decisive campaign against the Spaniards. In 1822 Sucre won a great victory in a fierce battle on the slopes of Mount Pichincha overlooking Quito, liberating Ecuador and uniting it in the federation of Greater Colombia.

The Republic of Ecuador began its separate existence in 1830, and Juan Jose Flores was elected the first President. The constitution established a presidential system of government, with a division of powers among the executive, the legislative, and the judicial branches. The new government was beset from the beginning by personal and sectional rivalries between the Costa and the Sierra. For many years political power alternated between the Liberal and Conservative Parties.

In the 19th century, political conditions were unstable. During the first 95 years of its independence, Ecuador had a succession of 40 presidents, dictators, and juntas. In 1851 slavery was abolished; 60,000 Negroes were freed, and tribute payments by the Indians were abolished. In 1860, 15 years of authoritarian rule by President Gabriel Garcia Moreno began. After his assassination in 1875 on the steps of the Presidential Palace, a period of liberal constitutional development followed. The greatest figure of this era was Eloy Alfaro, who completed the Guayaquil-Quito Railway and created the Public Health Service. Under his leadership new constitutions removed religious qualifications for citizenship, restored freedom of worship, confiscated Church estates, and secularized government education.

The early 20th century saw political unrest and economic distress following World War I. From 1925 until 1948, the country underwent an even more troubled period with 22 chiefs of state. Twelve years of relative stability followed. Galo Plaza Lasso (former secretary general of the Organization of American States) was elected president in free elections in 1948 and was succeeded by two other presidents who served complete terms.

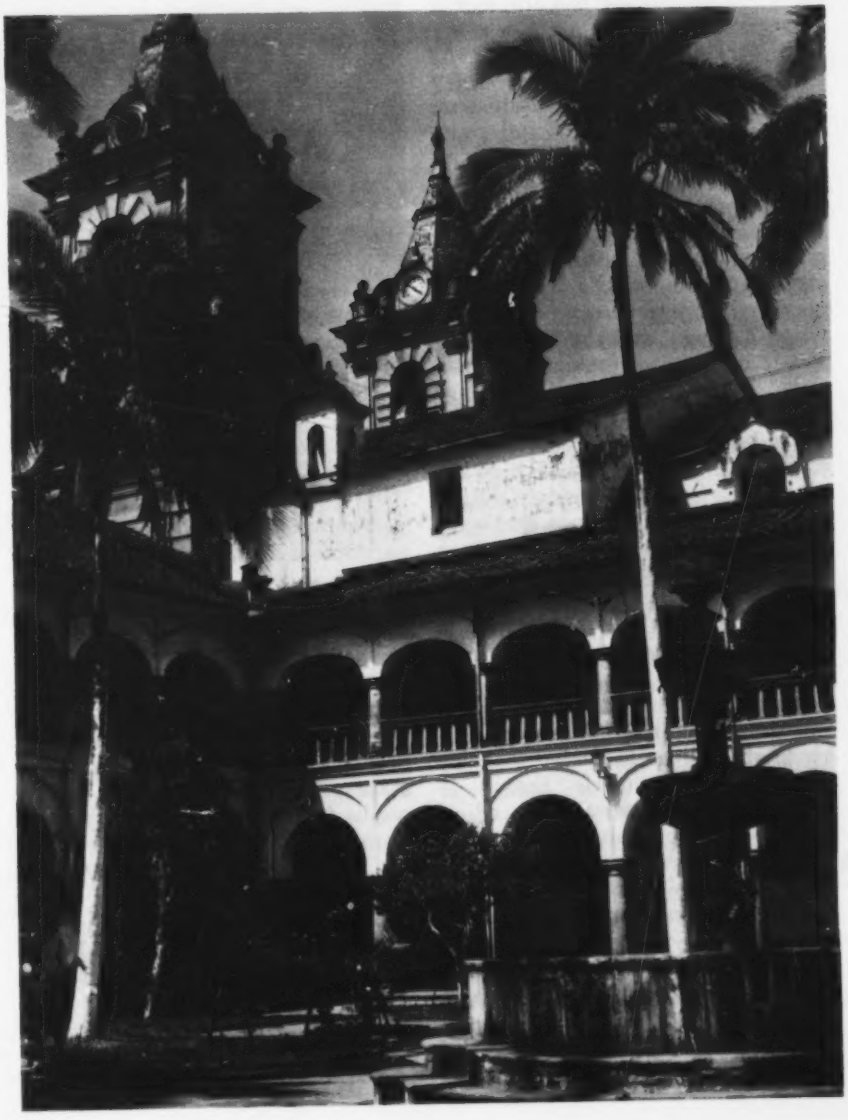
Public Institutions

Historically, Ecuadorean politics have been highly personal, and there have been frequent and dramatic changes in government. Since World War II the political system has shown greater stability, but the 1960s were marked by political turmoil.

Ecuador's present constitution provides for a separation of powers between executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. The president is elected for a 4-year term and may not be reelected. Twelve of the 71 members of the unicameral legislature are elected at large; the remaining 59 members are elected by province. The members of the highest courts of the nation are selected by the National Congress.

There are over 15 legally recognized political parties representing a wide political spectrum. Only

The church and monastery of San Francisco in old Quito, a beautiful example of colonial architecture.



candidates affiliated with certified political parties may run for elective office. Over the years the country's parties have generally been small, loose organizations that have depended more on charismatic leaders than on programs or ideology. Frequent internal splits have often produced factionalism.

Arts, Science, and Education

Quito's artistic tradition continued through the republican era and flourishes today. Guayasamin, Kingman, Viteri, and Villacis are Ecuadorean painters who enjoy international acclaim. Many resident and visiting artists frequently have exhibits in private and public galleries.

The National Dance Company performs modern ballets, some of which originated from traditional dance forms. The National Symphony, after expansion and improvement with the the wealth of the oil boom, is now struggling with 60 musicians. Concerts are free and given at locations throughout the city from October to July. The National Conservatory, the Symphony's school, and the Institute of Music offer some musical instruction. Traditional music is very much alive in Quito and may be heard both at concert presentations and at late-night "penas," which are simple and inexpensive nightclubs.

Indian wood carvings and wool cloth and rugs woven in Inca designs have been successfully commercialized; the Otovalo Indians sell their embroidered cottons and woven woolens all over South America. The city of Cuenca is a center of skilled pottery and furniture makers. Cotacachi province specializes in tooled leather, and San Antonio de Ibarra is famous for woodcarving. Indian traditional celebrations in the Highlands combine religious ceremonies with colorful popular art.

The government is interested and active in preserving the nation's historic, archeological, and architectural heritage, especially since UNESCO declared Quito a "world heritage" city due to its wealth of colonial art monuments. The Central Bank of Ecuador has underwritten extensive archeological activities. Discoveries from these investigations are displayed in the Bank's museum.

An increase in scientific activity is also underway in Ecuador. The National Atomic Energy Commission is doing more extensive research with radioisotopes, particularly in medicine and agriculture. Several experimental agricultural stations are active. The Central University and the National Polytechnic School have research labs. Other research is being conducted in cancer, pharmaceuticals, astronomy, and linguistics. The Darwin Research Station, located in the Galapagos National Park, receives funding from the Ecuadorean Government as well as from international groups for its activities.

Commerce and Industry

Ecuador became an oil exporter in 1972, and today oil accounts for two-thirds of the country's annual export earnings. A large portion of the revenues from petroleum exports is devoted to development projects such as the construction of roads, electric power plants, hospitals, educational facilities, and other projects designed to improve the economic and social structure of the nation. Much remains to be done on all fronts. A significant percentage of oil export earnings is earmarked for the military.

Oil income has been sporadic over the years, due to problems in marketing and difficulties between the government and U.S. companies that developed the petroleum industry. In 1977 Gulf agreed to sell its equity interests in petroleum production facilities to CEPE, the state oil corporation. Texaco remains in Ecuador, producing more than 95% of the country's output.

Unlike many lesser developed countries, Ecuador's service sector dominates the economy. Industry is the second largest sector. Petroleum became the third largest sector in 1984, dropping agriculture to fourth. Agriculture, fishing, and forestry still employ more than half of Ecuador's labor force. These sectors supplied about 13% of its gross domestic product in 1984 and brought in almost all of its nonpetroleum export earnings. The world's leading exporter of bananas, Ecuador has diversified to include cocoa and coffee among its export crops. Sugar exports were important in the early 1970s but now have fallen to insignificant levels. Animal husbandry is growing and improving in the nation, but the quantity and quality of the yields of meat and milk still leave much to be desired.

Ecuador also exports fresh, frozen, and canned shrimp, tuna, and other sea products. The development of shrimp farming has made the country the world's leading exporter of cultivated shrimp. Government planning gives priority to development of commercial fishing, and work is gradually proceeding on construction and modernization of ports and other facilities. The country claims sovereignty over waters within 200 miles both of its Pacific coast and the Galapagos Islands, and the 200-mile continental shelf. Over the past two decades this has led to a policy dispute with the U.S. concerning tuna, which the U.S. considers to be a migratory species. From time to time American tuna boats have been seized and fined. In 1983 the U.S. Government lifted an embargo on Ecuadorean exports of tuna to the U.S. that had been imposed in 1980 because of such seizures. No such seizures have occurred since 1983.

Other industries in Ecuador are small and geared to supplying the domestic market with light industrial and consumer goods such as construction materials, paints, textiles, some household appliances, plastics, canned goods, and pharmaceuticals. Assembly of automobiles and buses is limited. The agreements of the Andean Pact assigned to Ecuador the production of various petrochemicals, automotive vehicles, and metal-working machinery, but to date progress in implementing these agreements has

Religious festival of San Luis held in Otavalo during August.

been slow. Industrial development has been heavily dependent on investment and loans from abroad.

With the development of the petroleum industry, Ecuador's imports grew phenomenally, often doubling from year to year. Import restrictions, including high tariffs and requirements for advance payments, were instituted in the mid–1970s, and many of these are still in force. It is difficult to import "luxury goods" or goods that compete with local production.

Inflation has increased in recent years, but it still remains low by Latin American standards.

Transportation

Automobiles

With certain restrictions, the Ecuadorean Government permits each U.S. Government employee to import a car. Only one car may be imported duty free during a 2-year tour. At the end of 2 years, the car may be sold and another imported duty free. Most personnel find an automobile essential. (**See also** Customs, Duties, and Passage.)

Most American and foreign cars can be serviced in Quito and Guayaquil. Dealers do not carry large inventories of spare parts and often these must be imported, a process subject to lengthy customs delays even though diplomatic personnel are not assessed customs duty. All American car manufacturers have dealers in Ecuador. The supply of parts is limited. General Motors is the only vehicle manufacturer with permanent sales and technical representation in Ecuador. They assemble two models of the Isuzu Trooper with Chevrolet identification, selling at about $13,000, and the compact San Remo. Local representatives of General Motors and Ford will accept orders and deliver autos at special diplomatic prices to personnel assigned to or serving in Ecuador. There dealers will handle shipment of the auto to Ecuador. Further details may be obtained from the GSO in Quito.

The local Volvo, BMW, Peugeot, and Mercedes Benz dealers have good reputations here. Arrangements to purchase cars locally can be handled through the GSO.

City streets and principal intercity highways are reasonably well maintained. Many types of vehicles are used in Ecuador, from the smallest four-cylinder cars to the largest and most powerful luxury sedans. Automatic transmissions present no problems. Personnel with low-slung cars have problems when exploring remote areas. Heavy-duty shocks and suspensions are recommended. If you expect to explore remote areas, hunt, or fish, buy a Jeep or similar four-wheel-drive vehicle. Chevrolet Blazers and Bronco IIs are popular among U.S. personnel. High road clearance and maneuverability are essential, and a good range of gears, heavy-duty tires, springs, shock absorbers, and a roll bar are recommended. An oversized radiator is a desirable safety feature; halogen lights may be useful. The Individual Purchasing Service (IPS) has a four-wheel-drive vehicle that may be rented for recreational use. Bring a new car or one in good condition. The resale market for all types and sizes of automobiles is good.

If you are unable to disconnect the catalytic converter in a car designed to take only unleaded gasoline, it is possible to have the car adapted at a local garage. The premium gasoline (92 octane) sold in Ecuador resembles regular gas in the U.S. and costs the equivalent of $.60 per gallon. A low-octane regular gasoline is also available for $.42.

All diplomatic personnel must pay 700 sucres for license plates. If you have a valid U.S. drivers license, no driving test is required. Four 1" x 1" photographs are necessary. These photographs must be submitted to the Foreign Ministry by the Embassy within 24 hours of arrival. Though you may have them taken locally, it is best to bring them with you. Each person obtaining a drivers license must state his or her blood type. If necessary, you may have your blood typed by a local medical laboratory.

All Mission personnel must purchase third-party liability insurance while in Ecuador. It is required by Ecuadorean law and Mission regulations. The Embassy offers a group insurance plan that is underwritten by a local firm. Insurance rates in Ecuador are comparable to those in the U.S. The Embassy advises everyone to maintain collision and comprehensive insurance, which may be purchased in the U.S. or Ecuador. At least two U.S. companies will provide policies that are valid in Ecuador. Some U.S. insurance plans will also cover losses sustained while the vehicle is in shipment to Ecuador.

Most city streets are paved, although they are not always in good condition. Smaller towns usually have cobblestone or dirt streets. Travel by automobile can be slow and hard; some roads outside the cities are poor and winding. The main roads are the north-south Pan American highway that runs through Quito, the Quito-Guayaquil road via Santo Domingo, and the Quito-Esmeraldas road.

Local

Passenger train service to Guayaquil was suspended in early 1983 because of damage to the roadbed caused by catastrophic rains. It is uncertain when service along this spectacular route will be resumed.

Regular intercity buses are available, but they are not usually used by Mission personnel. Principal cities have numerous city buses. These are inexpensive, costing about $.05, but they are crowded and often in need of repair. Taxis are plentiful, and the fares are reasonable. You can hail one on the street or telephone the neighborhood "cooperativa" to request one. If the taxi does not have a meter, negotiate the fare before beginning the trip. A 4-mile ride from the Chancery to the airport should cost no more than the equivalent of $3.00. Taxis are difficult to find after 10:00 pm in Quito.

Regional

Both Eastern and Ecuatoriana Airlines offer regular service to Quito and Guayaquil via Miami, with at least one flight daily. There are several flights weekly to New York, and one direct flight weekly to Los Angeles. Make your reservations well in advance of your trip since all of these flights are crowded. Most are fully booked weeks in advance.

Mariscal Sucre, Quito's international airport, is 20 minutes from the Embassy. Ecuador has an international airline (Ecuatoriana) and three domestic airlines (SAETA, SAN, and TAME). Guayaquil is 30–45 minutes by air from Quito, depending on aircraft. Scheduled flights are also available to Esmeraldas, Cuenca, Lago Agrio, Manta, Machala, and the Galapagos. The one-way fare from Quito to any continental Ecuadorean city is between $20 and $30. A round-trip flight from the capital to the Galapagos Islands costs about $300 for persons who are not permanent residents of Ecuador. U.S. Mission personnel holding diplomatic visas are considered residents and are eligible for considerably reduced rates.

Communications

Telephone and Telegraph

International communications are reasonably good from Ecuador. Telephone connections are made by satellite. The cost for a person-to-person call to the U.S. varies. A

Gonzalez Suarez Avenue in Quito has many beautiful, modern apartment buildings.

person-to-person call placed to any of the Southern States costs about $9.50 for the first 3 minutes, and about $2.00 for each additional minute, according to the time of the day and week. Calls to other parts of the U.S. are $12.50 for the first 3 minutes and $2.75 for each additional minute. Station-to-station rates are $6.25, plus $2.00 for each additional minute for the Southern States, and $8.50 plus about $2.25 for other parts of the U.S. Reduced rates are in effect from 6 pm to 5 am every day and all day on Sunday. Calls from Ecuador must be placed through an operator, with waits usually ranging from 10 minutes to 2 hours. Cancellation charges range from $1.75 to $4.20. Calls placed from the U.S. to Ecuador are considerably less expensive than those placed from Ecuador.

A regular telegram to New York costs about 35¢ per word, or half that if sent as a night letter. Telegrams to the rest of the U.S. cost about 45¢ per word. There is a minumum of 21 words. Telegrams arrive in 3 hours. USIS has a commercial telex line; the call number is 2329 USICAQ.

Mail and Pouch

Both the Embassy and the Consulate General are served by an Air Force Post Office (APO). Use of these facilities is limited to U.S. Government employees and their families. Mail is sent and received daily in Quito and Guayaquil. APO letter mail takes a minimum of 3 days to and from Miami. Parcels sent Priority Air Lift (PAL) or Space Available Mail (SAM) require additional postage. PAL takes about a week for delivery; SAM takes from 1 to 3 weeks. Parcel size is restricted to 70 pounds maximum. Combined length and girth cannot exceed 100" for fourth-class mail, and 108" for first-class mail. Address letters and packages sent APO as follows:

To Quito:
(Name and Agency)
U.S. Embassy (Quito)
APO Miami 34039

To Guayaquil:
(Name and Agency)
U.S. Consulate General (Guayaquil)
APO Miami 34039

International airmail is not as dependable or inexpensive as APO. Any items sent by international mail should be addressed to U.S. Embassy, Casilla 538, Quito, Ecuador, or to U.S. Consulate General, Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Packages arriving by international parcel post and unaccompanied airfreight will be inspected and charged a duty. Although diplomats accredited to Ecuador can be exempted from these duties, the procedure for obtaining a free-entry decree routinely takes up to 1 month.

Radio and TV

Quito has a wide range of AM radio stations presenting primarily Latin American and American popular music. Good FM radio stations operate here, about 10 broadcast in stereo. The FM service of HCJB, a missionary-run broadcasting organization, features light classical music and offers nightly news broadcasts in English. Five TV channels transmit in color from 7 am to midnight. Programs are in Spanish and include dubbed versions of many U.S. series, a variety of motion pictures, and programs produced throughout Latin America.

Shortwave reception is usually good. On the 19-meter band (15.330 kHz) U.S. Armed Forces Radio carries news updates from several U.S. networks, including National Public Radio. Both Voice of America and BBC can be received clearly. Ham radio operators should bring their equipment, since the Ecuadorean Government issues licenses to those with a valid American license.

Newspapers, Magazines, and Technical Journals

Quito has two independent morning newspapers, *El Comercio* and *Hoy*, and two afternoon papers, *Ultimas Noticias* and *La Hora*. Newspapers from Guayaquil, such as *El Universo* and *El Telegrafo*, are also sold in Quito. Newspapers are sold on the streets and in neighborhood stores and can be delivered to the home.

The Latin American edition of the *Miami Herald* is usually flown to Quito daily and is sold at the airport and in major hotels for about $1.50 a copy. U.S. magazines and newspapers sent to the APO address arrive promptly.

The Latin American editions of *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines are available weekly at about $1.75. Other popular magazines from the U.S., France, Spain, and Germany are also available. The Binational Centers in Guayaquil and Cuenca subscribe to numerous English-language periodicals and have libraries with fiction and nonfiction English-language books. The Embassy has a USIS reference library, but it is noncirculating. The American-British Women's Club operates a small rental library. An area is set aside in the IPS at the Mission for the informal exchange of books, mainly paperbacks. Major hotels carry some paperback books. Several bookstores have limited stocks of books in English, but they are expensive.

Recordings of U.S. and European popular music are increasingly available. Those produced under license in Ecuador are relatively inexpensive (about $5), but imported records are costly. Selections of classical music are limited; recordings of Ecuadorean and Latin American popular and folk music are abundant, inexpensive, and of relatively good quality.

Several popular clubs offer a wide selection of VCR recordings of motion pictures, sports events, and television programs from the U.S. The Beta format is the most widely used, although VHS tapes are also available.

Health and Medicine

Medical Facilities

An American family nurse practitioner is assigned to the Embassy and is assisted by a full-time Foreign Service National nurse. They maintain a well-equipped clinic open to all U.S. Government employees and their dependents. The regional medical officer from La Paz usually visits Quito and Guayaquil every 3 months for regular consultations.

The clinic offers a wide range of services, including immunizations required by the Department of State. The nurse gives suggestions on home hygiene procedures, including food handling, and works closely with post medical consultants and the regional medical officer.

Obtain a yellow fever immunization in the U.S. before traveling to Ecuador. Also have your blood typed, since you will need this information when you arrive at post. Bring a supply of the medicines and vitamins you usually take. Remember to hand-carry any special prescription drugs you require, since even your airfreight may take weeks to arrive. Bring a 6–12 month supply of any special medication, and arrange to reorder from the U.S.

Upon arrival you will receive a health and medical information booklet with names of physicians and dentists practicing in Quito. Adequate hospitals and medical laboratories are available. The most highly recommended is Voz Andes Hospital operated by American missionaries. Some personnel prefer to use the Military Hospital near the Embassy. A new, ultramodern facility, Metropolitan Hospital, is currently under construction. This full service hospital will be managed by a U.S. firm.

Personnel who require unusual treatment or major surgery are usually sent to the military hospital in Panama. Orthopedic disabilities can usually be treated by an American-trained specialist in Quito. Physical therapists practice in Quito.

Have teeth and eyes checked and necessary work finished before you leave the U.S. Routine dental work can be done at post, but it is recommended that any major work (crowns and root canals, for example) be completed in the U.S. Ecuador has orthodontists, but they may be expensive.

Competent optometrists can fill prescriptions, but bring extra glasses with you. If any type of corrective lens is required, bring a copy of the prescription and leave a copy with your own doctor. Glasses and contact lenses can be ordered in Quito, and several families have found them satisfactory. Bring contact lens solutions and cleaning agents. Some individuals have found it uncomfortable to use contact lenses in Quito; the dry air can lead to eye and skin irritation. Bring an extra pair of sunglasses, because good ones are expensive. Skin creams and lotions are necessary, especially in the Sierra. Several 24-hour pharmacies carry most of the drugs and cosmetics you will need.

In Guayaquil, routine medical problems, emergencies, and some specialized conditions can be handled by local physicians, dentists, orthodontists, and hospitals. Many physicians speak some English, and some have had courses in the U.S. Most Americans use the Clinica Kennedy, a small, well-equipped private hospital, but many serious cases are evacuated to Panama or the U.S. An American contract nurse at the Consulate General is on duty three afternoons a week.

Community Health

Quito has a central sewage system, and garbage is collected regularly in most areas of the city. Even so, sanitation facilities and public health controls are below U.S. standards. Since the water system is subject to leaks and corrosion in the pipes, tapwater is not safe. The Embassy operates a water filtering and purification plant from which most personnel get their potable water.

Most restaurants and food handlers maintain acceptable standards of hygiene, but food from street vendors should generally be avoided.

The altitude can be a problem in Quito. Located at about 9,300 feet, it is the second highest Foreign Service post. At first most people feel some temporary discomfort from the altitude; some take several months to adjust. Symptoms include shortness of breath, fitful sleep, need for more sleep than usual, dizziness, headaches, prolonged respiratory infections, and energy loss. Recuperating from an illness may take longer than at lower altitudes. The Health Unit keeps portable oxygen available for emergencies.

Because of the thinness of the air, the equatorial sun is intense. One can be seriously sunburned after only short exposure. Tanning products and sunscreens are not generally available, so bring some in your luggage. A wide assortment of brimmed hats can be bought locally. "Panama" hats are made in Ecuador.

Preventive Measures

A number of diseases are prevalent in Ecuador, including dysentery, intestinal parasites, bronchial and respiratory problems, tuberculosis, hepatitis, typhoid, and diphtheria. Of these, Americans are more susceptible to hepatitis and intestinal parasites. Malaria is a problem in all areas of Ecuador below 5,000 feet (1,500 meters) in elevation, except for the Galapagos Islands. Antimalaria medication should be taken by all persons living in or traveling to a malarial area. Medication and additional instructions can be obtained in the Health Unit.

Inoculations and use of recommended health practices greatly reduce health risks. Typhoid inoculations are strongly recommended for everyone. Regular injections of gamma globulin are recommended as a protection against hepatitis. Inoculations for diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus and poliomyelitis are advised for children. Rabies vaccine is available. Yellow fever vaccine is advisable in certain areas of the country, but it is not available in Quito. Be sure you receive a yellow fever immunization before arriving.

Whenever tapwater is used for drinking or cooking in either Quito or Guayaquil, it should be boiled for 10 minutes. All ice, even that used in alcoholic beverages, should be made from proven potable water. Water boiled in a pressure cooker requires only 3 minutes. Purified water and ice are available from the Embassy plant.

Bottled and canned drinks are generally safe, as is ice cream from reputable producers. All fruits and vegetables eaten without peeling

should be soaked for 20 minutes in a Clorox or iodine solution; those to be peeled should be washed with soap and water.

Insecticides and disinfectants should be used as necessary in kitchens and bathrooms against flies, roaches, and germs. Because of the climate and altitude, mosquitoes are not a problem in Quito. Insecticides, disinfectants, and mousetraps, if needed, may be purchased locally. Guayaquil has more of the typical tropical climate problems than does Quito: oppressive heat and humidity, fast food spoilage, insects, and mildew.

Whole milk is available but it is not always safe even though it is pasteurized. Many families use milk from local sources and eat dairy products without problems, but, to be absolutely safe, all milk should be either pasteurized, boiled at home, or made from powdered milk. Because of intermittent problems with milk contamination, boil all milk 10 minutes.

Servants should take preemployment medical examinations, and the employer should enforce rigid standards of cleanliness. Establish strict standards for food handling and storage, cooking, washing dishes, and cleaning kitchen equipment.

Employment for Spouses and Dependents

Few employment opportunities exist within the Mission, with the exception of a 1-year Community Liaison Office appointment and part-time APO and IPS positions. Positions at USAID filled by adult dependents include a full-time secretary, project voucher examiner/accountant, assistant to administrative officer, and librarian. Some part-time positions include audiovisual specialist, auditor, and editor in English and Spanish. Usually positions are available for a short duration. Secretarial positions are open between departures and arrivals of American incumbents. There is one American family member/Foreign Service National (AFM-FSN) position. Some foreign national positions may be filled by American family members when vacancies occur; fluent Spanish is usually required.

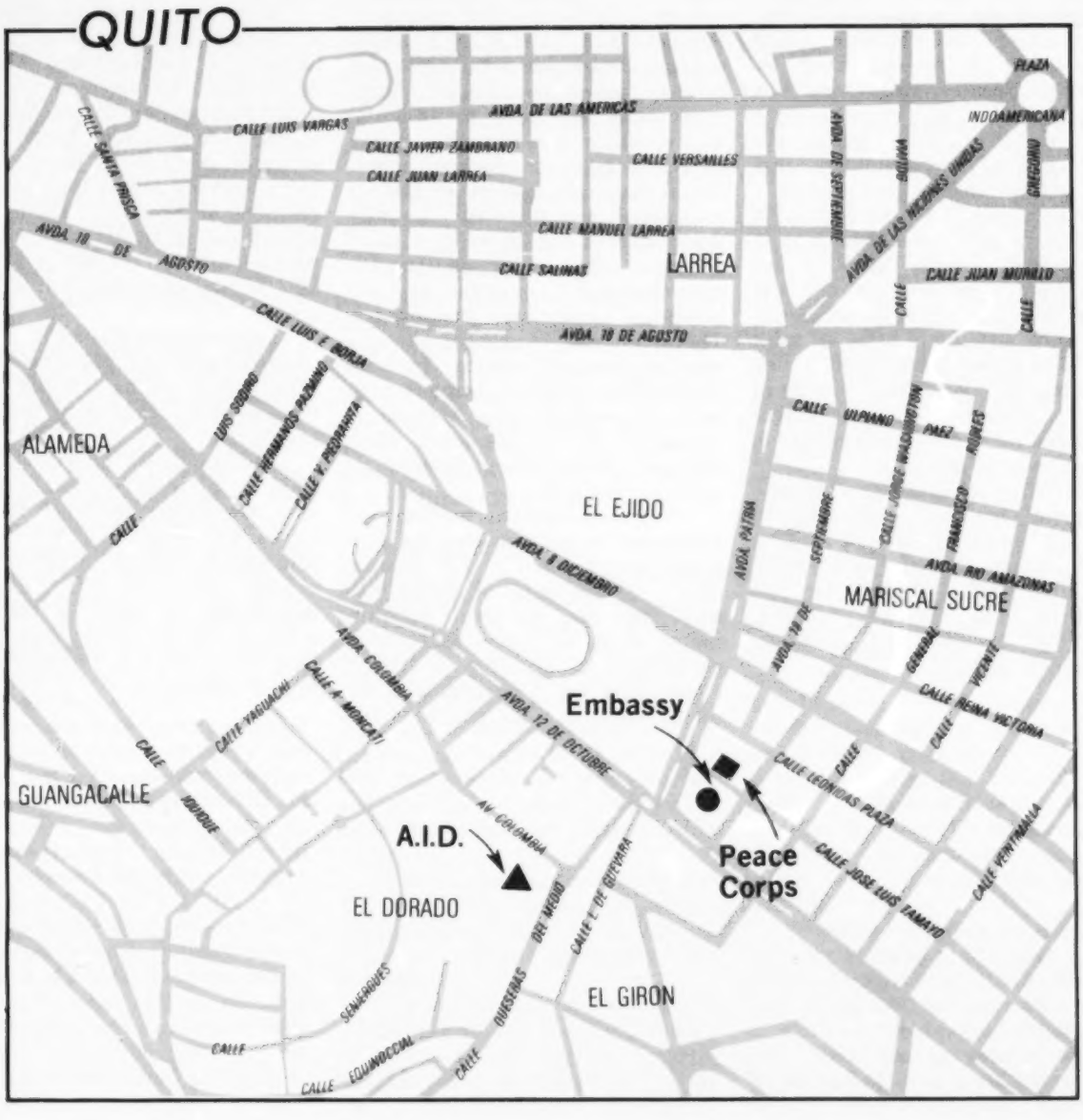
A preemployment medical examination is not required for temporary employment of U.S. dependents. Dependents of direct-hire employees may be given appointments of up to 3 months pending completion of security clearance. Clearances are a prerequisite for employment in some positions and may be obtained after entrance on duty.

When funds are available, the Mission operates a summer employment program for teenage dependents, placing them in various sections of the Mission for about 2 months. Pay is the U.S. minimum wage.

Some dependents have worked as teachers and staff in offices and libraries at Cotopaxi and Alliance Academies. Employment opportunities vary; generally teaching credentials are required. Employment at these institutions does not require working papers from the Government of Ecuador. Other local educational institutions offer opportunities to teach courses in English as a second language, but salaries are low.

Dependents engaged in artistic pursuits such as painting, sculpture, and music have found opportunities to continue their work and to exhibit.

Although post efforts to negotiate a bilateral work agreement with the Government of Ecuador have been unsuccessful, the Foreign Ministry is willing to consider requests for permits allowing dependents to work in the local economy on a case-by-case basis. The salary scale in Ecuador is low by U.S. standards.


QUITO
AVDA. DE LAS AMERICAS
CALLE LUIS VARGAS
CALLE JAVIER ZAMBRANO
CALLE JUAN LARREA
CALLE VERSAILLES
CALLE MANUEL LARREA
CALLE SALINAS
LARREA
AVDA. 10 DE AGOSTO
CALLE LUIS E. BORJA
ALAMEDA
EL EJIDO
AVDA. 6 DICIEMBRE
MARISCAL SUCRE
AVDA. RIO AMAZONAS
AVDA. COLOMBIA
AVDA. 12 DE OCTUBRE
Embassy
GUANGACALLE
A.I.D.
Peace Corps
EL DORADO
EL GIRON
AV. COLOMBIA
CALLE 10 DE AGOSTO
CALLE JUAN MURILLO
CALLE REINA VICTORIA
CALLE LEONIDAS PLAZA
CALLE JOSE LUIS TAMAYO
CALLE VENTIMILLA
CALLE QUESADAS
CALLE EQUINOCCIAL
CALLE SENEFELDER

American Embassy

Quito

When Spanish expeditions overwhelmed the Inca Empire, the Inca leader Ruminahui destroyed the city of Quito rather than surrender it to the conquerors. The Spanish built their own settlement, San Francisco de Quito, on the same site. At the southern end of Pichincha Valley, it was an easily defensible location bordered by deep ravines and dominated by the smooth round hill now called the Panecillo.

Nestled in a high mountain valley ringed by snowcapped volcanoes, Quito will literally take your breath away with its natural beauty and altitude. The Andean setting, Spanish colonial architecture, Indian costumes, palm trees, bougainvillea, and steep hillsides with checkerboard patterns of vivid greens and yellows rising into the clouds a short distance from the sprawling city—all make Quito unique.

The colonial center of Quito has been declared a heritage of mankind ("Patrimonio de la Humanidad") by UNESCO. This heritage is preserved today by zoning laws that forbid the demolition or exterior remodeling of the low, whitewashed buildings in the center of the city. The old town, cut into squares by narrow streets with steep flights of steps, contains many colonial art monuments: La Compania, with its carved facade and gold-leafed interior; San Francisco, the first spiritual center in South America, with a museum crowded with sculptures and paintings by Caspicara and Miguel de Santiago; San Agustin, a quiet convent with treasures in its ceilings and altars; the Cathedral, famous for art works of the Quiteno school; Santo Domingo monastery, with another museum of priceless paintings and sculpture; and many others.

The narrow streets of colonial Quito are a pleasure for an unhurried stroll on weekends when the city seems to shut down completely. During the week the heavy traffic makes a walk through the center of town something of a struggle, and it is unwise to venture through the colorful Ipiales street market with important documents or valuables. A respite from the bustling throngs of shoppers, vendors, and noisy traffic can be found throughout the city in the broad plazas with meticulously kept parks bordered by churches and public buildings.

In the mid-20th century, Quito grew swiftly. Industrial areas and crowded popular barrios developed to the south of the city. To the north, Quito spread up a wide valley bordering the dormant Pichincha Volcano. Originally farmland dotted with villas built in fanciful Spanish, Moorish, or 1930s modern architecture, this area is rapidly becoming Quito's modern center. The U.S. Embassy is located here, close to El Ejido Park and the international-class Hotel Colon. The Rio Amazonas shopping district runs from the park through a modern business center of high-rise office buildings that offer a variety of restaurants, shops, banks, and sidewalk cafes. Further north, the valley is comfortably residential, crossed by wide boulevards and served by modern shopping centers. This is where most of the diplomatic community lives and where the better schools are located.

The Post and Its Administration

Organization of the U.S. agencies in Quito is typical of most posts. The Embassy provides administrative support for the U.S. Information Service (USIS), the Inter-American Geodetic Survey (IAGS), the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), the Foreign Commercial Service (US/FCS), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Defense Attache's Office (DAO), the U.S. Military Liaison Group (USMLGP), and the Peace Corps. USAID provides its own administrative services. The workweek is Monday to Friday, 8 am to 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm to 5 pm, for all U.S. Government agencies except IAGS.

The Chancery is a four-story building at the corner of Avenida Patria and 12 de Octubre (telephone 548–000), within easy walking distance of Catholic University, the Hotel Colon, El Ejido Park, and the busy Amazonas shopping district. It has a commercial library, USIS library, snackbar, Health Unit, conference room, and auditorium. The Consular Section is located on the Chancery grounds.

The Consular Section reports a total of about 6,400 registered American citizens in Ecuador. Over the last 3 years, the Embassy and Consulate General in Guayaquil together have processed from 33,000 to 53,000 nonimmigrant visa applications from Ecuadorians each year.

USAID offices are located on Avenida Colombia 1573 and Queseras del Medio (telephone 521–100). USAID cooperates with the Government of Ecuador in the areas of agriculture, education, health, population, and housing in addition to projects in public sector training, alternative sources of energy, private sector development, and fiscal administration. USAID economic assistance in Ecuador between 1942 and 1985 totaled $385.9 million.

USIS offices are on the second floor of the Chancery (521–208). USIS provides information to the Ecuadorean press; furnishes supplies, tapes, materials, and VOA broadcasts to radio stations; provides programs and information to

TV stations; organizes cultural programs of various kinds to promote intercultural understanding; and arranges educational exchanges.

IAGS has offices in the Instituto Geografico Militar (telephone 239–562). A Map Sales Office on the first floor is open from 7 am to 3 pm and sells the best available maps of Ecuador. A part of the Defense Mapping Agency, IAGS has worked in Ecuador since 1947. It provides logistic support and technical assistance for topographical surveys of Ecuador and inventories of national physical resources.

FAS is located on the second floor of the Chancery (telephone 529–088). Besides reporting on the agricultural situation in Ecuador and promoting the sale of U.S. agricultural products, the Agricultural attache provides information on U.S. import regulations affecting pets, foods, and other plant and animal materials going to the U.S.

The US/FCS has offices and library on the first floor of the Chancery (545–893). It supports U.S. business and promotes the export of U.S. products and services to Ecuador.

DEA (telephone 230–053) and the Department of State Narcotics Control Division (NCD) have offices in the Banco de los Andes building, Amazonas and Roca. DEA and NCD provide technical assistance, offer commodity support, and coordinate training for several enforcement agencies of the Ecuadorean Government. They also provide similar assistance to other government institutions dealing with drug abuse prevention.

The DAO is located on the third floor of the Chancery (telephone 230–720). The USMLGP, also on the third floor, coordinates and administers U.S. programs of military assistance (telephone 548–000, extensions 280, 290, and 293).

The Peace Corps is located at Avenida 6 de Diciembre, 2269, 6 blocks from the Embassy (telephone 231–677). The Peace Corps has been in Ecuador since 1962 and has a permanent training center in nearby Tumbaco. Some 250 volunteers work throughout the country on a variety of projects such as agricultural production, rural health, small business development, and education. The Peace Corps contingent is the second largest in the Western Hemisphere.

The U.S. Embassy, Quito.

The community liaison officer and the agency/section sponsor usually meet arriving personnel at the airport. If you plan to arrive first in Guayaquil, you should directly inform both the Consulate General and the Quito agency of your arrival time. The USAID executive officer writes to all USAID personnel as soon as their assignments to Ecuador are confirmed.

Housing

Temporary Quarters

The IPS has a large, fully equipped apartment for new arrivals, one block from the Embassy. Also near the Embassy are the Hotel Tambo Real, where suites have cooking facilities; the Hotel Los Alpes, a family-run inn; the Hotel Amaranta Real, where pets may be kept; and the Hotel Embassy. These hotels often accommodate new arrivals. A washer and dryer in the Embassy are for use by employees living in nearby hotels. The Hotel Colon and the Hotel Quito are international tourist-class hotels. New arrivals should expect to stay in hotels from 1 to 3 months since it is sometimes difficult to find appropriate housing quickly. For those families wishing to move into permanent quarters before their household goods arrive, GSO has a limited amount of furniture and household supplies (linens and kitchen equipment) available for temporary loan.

Permanent Housing

Government-owned quarters are available for the Ambassador, the USAID director, and the Agricultural attache. The Ambassador's residence is a 19-room Spanish-style home with traditional furniture. Located in a 9-acre private park with tennis court and swimming pool on the edge of a ridge in east Quito, it has a view of the broad Tumbaco Valley and snowcapped Cayambe Volcano. The homes of both the USAID director and the Agricultural attache are modern two-story, four-bedroom homes.

Government-leased quarters are available for the DCM, the PAO, the IAGS project director, the DEA chief representative, the Marine Guard NCOIC, and the Marine Guards. All others arrange for privately leased quarters. The Mission is studying the feasibility of instituting government leasing for all American personnel.

Quito's houses and apartments range in style from elegant colonial to ultra-modern. Rents are higher than in the U.S. but are negotiable. Several real estate agents take the time to show many houses, but patience may be necessary to find quarters priced within the quarters allowance.

Houses usually have small yards. They ordinarily have three or four bedrooms, with two or more bathrooms, and a room and bath for a live-in maid. Many of Quito's newer houses are split-level or multilevel. Duplexes and apartments typically have two or three bedrooms and servants quarters. Apartments now tend to be more expensive than detached houses. Most houses have walls or fences around the property, and lower windows often have protective metal grillwork. Apartment buildings usually have porters or guards. The Embassy security office surveys new quarters and will suggest modifications to improve security.

Furnishings

Furnished houses and apartments are available, but cost $150–$200 more a month. Quito is not a furnished post for State and USIS personnel. A stove, refrigerator, washer, and dryer are provided to all State, USIS, and DEA personnel for the duration of their tours.

Government furnishings are provided to USAID direct-hire personnel. They normally receive the following furnishings for their quarters, in keeping with the size limitations specified in the housing standards: stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer, dinette set, rugs for living room and dining room, sofa, chairs, two electric heaters, bookcase, coffee table, end tables, floor and table lamps, dining room set, single and double beds with innerspring mattresses and box springs, bedspreads, pillows, dressers with mirrors, chest of drawers, and nightstands. USAID personnel are provided with an adequate drapery and curtain allowance.

Personnel of other agencies should write their respective offices for information.

Unless informed otherwise, employees should not bring their own major appliances. This does not apply to freezers, since the Mission does not provide them. Bring small appliances, kitchenware, and household gadgets, as they are expensive or unavailable. Anyone who enjoys fresh fruit juice will find an electric juice extractor or blender helpful. A pressure cooker saves time for the cook in this altitude.

GSO has a limited supply of furniture and appliances (such as beds, chairs, dining tables, chests of drawers, night tables, and lamps) available for temporary loan to furnish quarters until personal household goods arrive. Several Welcome Kits are available; these contain such items as dishes, glassware, cutlery, pots and pans, bed and bath linens, and an iron. The IPS has drinking glasses for rent. GSO will lend out card tables and chairs. The post will not otherwise provide supplemental furnishings to those who have received authorization for full shipment of household effects.

You will generally be able to use whatever furniture you might have in the U.S. Curtains and rugs do not usually come with houses or apartments; cool nights in Quito make these desirable. Good wool and cotton rugs are available locally, most of them handmade. They can be made to order and are relatively inexpensive.

Large windows of irregular size are common. The least expensive local curtain fabrics are made of rough-woven wool and cotton and cost about $2 a yard. Sheer curtains are widely used here. This fabric is available locally, but it is less expensive in the States.

Fine furniture can be made to order in Ecuador, and rattan and wicker are available at reasonable prices. Inexpensive recovering and reupholstering is done here, and expert furniture repair is available. Good quality fabrics are expensive, and the selection is limited.

Residential housing in northern Quito, the newest area.

Modern Quito stretches north up a wide valley.

Utilities and Equipment

In the dry season, water pressure and supply may be low. Water in some areas may be interrupted on an irregular schedule for hours at a time. Most homes have reservoir tanks, pumps, and small electric water heaters. Houses and apartments have modern plumbing for the most part. Because of long waits for new phones, rent a house or apartment with a telephone already installed. Some families have found a cordless phone very convenient. Public phone booths are scarce.

Residences are not normally equipped with kitchen appliances. Personnel who are not authorized to receive stoves, refrigerators, washers, and dryers from their agencies should bring them. Many homes have parquet floors, and a floor polisher is useful. The IPS has one that can be rented for a nominal fee.

Electric current is the same as in the U.S.: 110v, 60 cycles, with 220v available for stoves and dryers. Do not rent a home without 220v triple-phase current for appliances. Some new homes have either no light fixtures or else inadequate fixtures, and the tenant may have to purchase and install lighting. Although available locally, all types of electrical fixtures are expensive.

Homes in Quito have no central heating, and evenings can be quite chilly. Some houses are colder than others; those with eastern and western exposure benefit from the strong equatorial sunshine. Many people have found space heaters and electric blankets useful in bathrooms and bedrooms. Most residences have fireplaces, and some have electric baseboard heat. The cost of electricity is about the same as in the U.S.

Lawn furniture is useful during the day. It is possible to sit in the sun almost every day in Quito between 10 am and 2 pm, but in the evenings it is too cold to sit outdoors. If you like to garden, bring equipment. Gardeners do not charge high prices (about $5 per visit) and provide their own equipment, except hose.

Food

Ecuador has a plentiful supply of tropical fruits and vegetables all year, with varieties not seen in North America. Avocados, artichokes, raspberries, strawberries, bananas, pineapples, and papaya can be purchased all year, and peaches, apples, pears, and other fruit can be found in season. There are several markets in Quito where fresh produce, seafood, chicken, meat, cut flowers, and potted plants are sold.

Beef, pork, lamb, and veal can be bought in supermarkets and butcher shops. Filet mignon costs about half the U.S. price. Chicken is more expensive, and turkey costs about twice as much as in the U.S. Both American and European cuts of meat are available, though beef is usually unaged and may be tough. Some families use meat tenderizers or marinades; a pressure cooker helps.

Although a wide variety of food items is available in Ecuador, including items imported from the U.S. and Europe, certain American foods are difficult to find or very expensive. The Embassy commissary, or IPS, is open to all personnel who have "cupo," a yearly importation allowance granted by the Ecuadorean Government to Mission employees with diplomatic titles or their equivalent. IPS stocks wine, liquor, cigarettes, a limited supply of frozen and canned food items, and paper goods. Turkeys are brought in for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Personnel should bring any special food requirements in their household effects. Supplies can also be mailed via APO.

Milk is pasteurized, though quality control is irregular, and comes in disposable paper cartons or plastic bags. Heavy cream is available in the supermarkets, and sour cream can be found in some stores. A variety of cheeses is available. Several brands of ice cream are considered safe, and good yogurt is available. Excellent pastry and a variety of breads can be purchased in Quito.

Quito has two large supermarket chains, Supermaxi and Mi Comisariato, which are well stocked with groceries, dry goods, and fresh products at very reasonable prices. U.S. goods are available, but at relatively high prices. Comparable Ecuadorean and Latin American products are less expensive. Many small shops and delicatessens offer excellent quality foodstuffs, such as ham, sausages, cold cuts, pickles, olives, and pastas. In general, the cook who can use the local foods with imagination will find it economical to do without processed, packaged, imported goods.

Ecuadorean cuisine depends heavily on corn, potatoes, and pork. Wonderful soups are made with the great assortment of vegetables. One local specialty is locro, a potato soup spiced with cheese and avocado; another is llapingachos, a potato and cheese pancake. Delicious ceviche (marinated seafood), humitas (baked corn cakes), and empanadas (pastries filled with meat or cheese) are standard fare.

Clothing

General. Light- to medium-weight clothing is used throughout the year in Quito. Because temperatures vary during the course of the day, you will need sweaters, jackets, or raincoats. In general, you can use almost anything in your wardrobe except heavy winter clothing. Bring summer clothing for trips to the beach and the jungle and swimsuits for the heated pools in Quito. Warmup suits are a must for joggers and tennis players in Quito. Bathrobes and warm pajamas will be a comfort. Everyone will need a hat for protection from the sun. A wide assortment of brimmed hats in beautiful colors and styles can be bought in Ecuador for much less than in the U.S. A lightweight coat will be welcome on some of Quito's chilliest evenings.

Many boutiques offer stylish clothing, dresses, and suits imported from the U.S. and Europe, but prices are high. Sweaters are inexpensive. Excellent leather and suede coats for men and women may be made to order. Fashionable knitwear may be bought readymade or made to order at reasonable prices. The quality of drycleaning is acceptable, and it is inexpensive.

European-type lasts are used on readymade shoes. These are quite stylish, but people with long, narrow feet cannot wear them. Boots and shoes of good quality leather can be made to order.

Men. Light- to medium-weight suits are worn all year. Sports coats, sweaters, slacks, and long-sleeved sports shirts are useful for informal and casual gatherings. A raincoat with a zip-in lining is welcome on chilly evenings, and an umbrella is necessary. Business and professional men do not wear hats except when watching sports events or other outdoor activities. A brimmed hat can be bought locally, but equestrians should bring riding helmets. Good tailoring is available at reasonable prices. Tuxedoes are occasionally needed; white dinner jackets are not worn.

Women. Blouses, skirts, sweaters, slacks, and jackets are standard daily wear in Quito. Because mornings and evenings are cool and temperatures at noon quite warm, a cardigan or blazer is usually worn or carried. Lightweight wool is the most practical material. Informal and casual clothes are worn at social gatherings outside the city on weekends, but cocktail dresses are needed for dinner parties and Embassy receptions during the week in town. Long-sleeved dresses with jackets are good choices for chilly evenings. Shorts, short skirts, and tank tops should not be worn in public. Bring a wraparound skirt to throw on after exercise classes or tennis.

Rainwear and a light- or medium-weight coat, stole, or cape for evenings are necessary. Hats are not worn, except for protection from the sun. Embroidered capes, stoles, different kinds of sweaters, and ponchos are available locally. Dressmakers are available; fabric can be purchased locally or sent via APO.

A few formal gowns are recommended for senior officers or senior officers' wives. Junior officers, female employees, and junior officers' wives need at least one formal. Fur coats are not uncommon here.

Children. Light- to medium-weight clothes are the rule. Warm, inexpensive sweaters can be bought locally. Bring raincoats, boots, and shoes. Leotards, tights, knee socks, and jeans are popular items. Warm pajamas or nightgowns, bathrobes, and slippers are recommended. Teenagers of both sexes seem to live in jeans or corduroy slacks and tennis shoes, but those who like discotheques and parties will need less casual clothing. Young men will probably want at least one sports coat.

Supplies and Services

Supplies

The Embassy Medical Unit has a selection of drugs. Local pharmacies are fairly well supplied, but special medicines should be brought in quantity. All personnel should verify prescriptions from local physicians with the Embassy nurse. Most U.S. and European toiletries and cosmetics are available.

If you plan to sew or use a dressmaker's services, bring a supply of sewing accessories, especially thread and zippers. A wide range of fabrics is available at varying prices, but imported fabrics are expensive. Good quality woolens and synthetics are manufactured locally.

Bring basic tools and any hobby or do-it-yourself equipment. Batteries of all sizes are available. Three-prong outlets are nonexistent, so bring adaptors for three-prong appliances.

Stationery, quality envelopes, greeting cards, wrapping paper, and ribbon are scarce and expensive. Aluminum foil, plastic wrap, waxed paper, toilet paper, and disposable diapers are available but expensive. Plain paper napkins can be bought, but the quality is only fair. Candles are sold in different sizes and colors at U.S. prices, but the dripless variety are not available. Artists should bring all supplies.

Children's toys are very expensive. Bring toys for your children and for gifts. Bring lunch boxes for kindergarten and elementary school-age children.

Basic Services

Parts for common electrical appliances, electronic products, and cars are often available but expensive. Parts ordered from the U.S. take a long time to arrive, and if sent airfreight they may spend more than a week awaiting customs clearance. Some local mechanics are good. The cost of service on cars and appliances is much lower than in the U.S. Painting is inexpensive. Radio, phonograph, and TV repairs can be done by Embassy technicians on their own time.

Quito has many excellent hairdressers and barbershops; prices are much lower than in the U.S. Hairdressers, masseuses, and manicurists will come to your home at reasonable cost. Several cosmetologists offer good service at low prices. Many reputable local artisans make and repair jewelry at far less cost than in the U.S. Good catering services are available in the city, and prices are reasonable. Good tailors and dressmakers are available at a range of prices.

Domestic Help

Maids, cooks, gardeners, launderers, tailors, and nursemaids are available for reasonable wages. Personnel sometimes prefer live-in maids for security reasons; burglaries of unoccupied houses are common. Many people share the cost of a security guard with some of their neighbors.

A combination maid-cook is generally desirable for a single person or couple without children and receives a monthly salary of about $80. Workers who come in by the day generally earn about $5. Large families often hire more than one servant.

Under Ecuadorean law and Embassy regulations, domestic employees must be covered by Ecuadorean Social Security. Stringent laws cover employment and termination. These regulations are included in orientation material for new arrivals and should be read and followed carefully. Forms for Ecuadorean Social Security are available at the Embassy.

In addition to a salary, the domestic employee receives a 13th, 14th, and 15th month salary as bonuses. Some employees are also eligible for cost-of-living compensation and/or a transportation bonus. Although the employee is required to pay a portion of the monthly Social Security payments, most personnel pay the entire amount for their servants. By law, servants are entitled to 1 day off every 2 weeks, but in practice they receive 1 day off each week. They are given 15 days paid vacation annually. Employers provide uniforms.

Religious Activities

Ecuador is primarily Catholic, and Quito is the seat of an Archbishopric. About 70 Catholic churches in the city serve Spanish-speaking congregations. An English-language service is held in the Dominican Chapel each Sunday morning, and confessions may be heard.

Traditional Jewish services in Spanish and Hebrew are offered each Friday evening and Saturday morning at the Asociacion Israelita.

The community provides a number of Protestant activities and services in English. The Advent and St. Nicholas Church (Lutheran and Anglican) offers a worship service and adult discussion group every Sunday morning at Isabel La Catolica 1431. The First Baptist Church has a Sunday school and services. The interdenominational English Fellowship Church, sponsored by the World Radio Missionary Fellowship (which runs radio station HCJB and Voz Andes Hospital), offers a Bible school and services on Sunday and a teen group program.

The Seventh-day Adventists offer services on Saturday morning and Sunday evening and operate the Clinica Americana. Jehovah's Witnesses also have weekly services. The Church of the Latter-day Saints has Sunday services in Spanish.

Education

Dependent Education

At Post. Quito has many public and private primary and secondary schools. Cotopaxi Academy, Alliance Academy, and Colegio Americano are private schools usually preferred by Americans in Quito. Cotopaxi and Colegio Americano receive limited grant support from the U.S. Government. The educational allowance covers costs at any of these schools.

Cotopaxi Academy was founded in 1959 as a private, cooperative, American nonsectarian school offering classes from prekindergarten (for children from the age of 3) through grade 12. The school year runs from the end of August to early June. Some 750 students attend the school. About one-third are American, one-third Ecuadorean, and one-third other nationalities. Instruction is in English, and both Spanish and English are taught as second languages. The teachers are certified in the U.S., and classes are limited to 20 students. An International Baccalaureate Diploma is offered for qualified students going on to universities around the world. The physical plant is inadequate, but an ambitious building plan for a new school at another location has been initiated.

Cotopaxi is affiliated with the Universities of Alabama, Kentucky, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania for student teaching internship programs. It is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the International Baccalaureate Office in Geneva. In addition to the traditional academic subjects, classes are offered in art, band, physical education, computers, and French. Standard U.S. texts, teaching materials, and tests are used. Extracurricular activities include yearbook, newspaper, National Honor Society, Student Council, and several team sports. Two guidance counselors are on the staff.

An integrated program for gifted students operates from prekindergarten to grade 12. Programs for physically handicapped

children and those with learning disabilities are available from prekindergarten through grade 8, but previous screening is necessary. The staff includes a remedial reading teacher. For children in higher grades who have special problems, consult the school and post prior to arrival.

Alliance Academy, founded in 1929 for the children of missionaries, is a privately supported college preparatory school. The school provides educational facilities to the children of Protestant missionaries from Quito, as well as those from other parts of Latin America. It has kindergarten through grade 12. The school year runs from early August to late May. Of some 500 students, 60% are children of missionaries from many different missions, and 40% are children of diplomatic and international business families. Eighty percent are U.S. and Canadian citizens. Children from other international families are accepted on a space-available basis. The Christian Philosophy of Education is the focus of the school. Daily Bible classes and weekly chapels are a required part of the curriculum. Students of all faiths are accepted.

La Compania, one of many old churches in Quito.

Classes are taught in English, and Spanish classes are required for all students. The basic subjects resemble those in most U.S. schools. Electives include woodworking, art, typing, home economics, photography, shorthand, and yearbook publication. Advanced placement courses are offered in math, English, and Spanish. Computer math and programming are also offered. The school is well supplied with learning materials including three fully equipped science laboratories, elementary and secondary school libraries, and an audiovisual center. The library holds about 35,000 volumes, 800 films, 2,000 filmstrips, and videotaping facilities. Spanish and English are taught as second languages. Programs are available for the gifted as well as for the mentally handicapped. The school conducts a full and varied sports and extracurricular program, including chorus, band, and orchestra.

Alliance Academy is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and belongs to the Southern Association of Independent Schools, the Association of Christian Schools International, and the Association of American Schools of South America.

Colegio Americano was founded in 1940 as a private coeducational school for students of all nationalities from prekindergarten through grade 12. A junior college provides secretarial and business management training. The school year is divided into trimesters extending from early October to mid-July, the traditional Ecuadorean school year. The current school population is 2,800. Most students are Ecuadorean. The 22-acre campus is north of Quito.

The curriculum is divided into two sections: an international section offers courses similar to those at U.S. college-preparatory, public schools; a national section offers subjects required of Ecuadorean schools. Instruction is in both English and Spanish. Courses in art and music are also taught. The school is accredited by the Southern

Association of Colleges and Schools and by the Ecuadorean Ministry of Education. A comprehensive Learning Disabilities Program from prekindergarten through grade 12 is offered, as well as guidance counseling and college counseling. Both English and Spanish are offered as second languages. Eighty-three percent of the graduating seniors go on to study in universities in the U.S. and Europe.

Away From Post. Currently Embassy Quito is granted an away-from-post education allowance for grades 9–12 of $4,300 to $12,500 to cover basic tuition, books and supplies, fees, room and board, and periodic transportation between post and school. Most Mission families in Quito send their children to either Cotopaxi or Alliance Academy.

Special Educational Opportunities

The Central University, the Catholic University, and the National Polytechnic School offer academic instruction at the university level in Quito. Both Central and Catholic Universities have faculties of law, economics, engineering, and philosophy. Central University also has faculties of medicine, architecture, dentistry, and general studies; it has departments of natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities. The Polytechnic School offers courses in electrical and chemical engineering and nuclear science. All classes are taught in Spanish. The admissions process is lengthy and difficult.

Catholic University offers special 6-week intensive courses in Spanish for about $80. The course consists of 3 hours of class 5 days a week. Many Americans take this course.

The National School of Fine Arts is associated with Central University. For a small fee, adults can take lessons in painting and sculpture. Various well-known local artists accept students of all ages for private classes, and several resident Americans also give lessons.

The National Conservatory of Music accepts students for voice training and instruction in musical instruments, especially piano and violin. Students attending the schools normally used by the American community may receive instruction in a variety of instruments. Students must have their own musical instruments, although the schools rent smaller instruments.

The University of Alabama College of Education offers graduate studies in education in Quito. Visiting professors offer courses in secondary education, elementary and early childhood education, administration, and planning. Four-week courses are offered during the fall, spring, and summer to fulfill credit requirements toward a master's degree or Ph.D. Information may be obtained through any of the three American schools.

Several museums in Quito have impressive collections of paintings, archeological objects, and historical manuscripts. The National Museum of History has a noteworthy manuscript collection. The Casa de la Cultura often sponsors exhibits and performances of local artists. The National Museum of Colonial Art has an outstanding collection of sculpture and paintings. The studio and museum of Osvaldo Guayasamin, a noted Ecuadorean artist, is open to the public. In addition to the artist's work, the gallery has a rare collection of pre-Columbian artifacts.

The premier museum in Quito is in the Central Bank. Divided into separate archeological and colonial exhibits, the museum shows carefully selected pieces in well-designed arrangements. Tours are conducted in several languages, and the museum shows an English-language film describing the country's history and archeology.

Another interesting museum is located a few miles north of Quito at the Mitad del Mundo on the Equator. Nearby are the partially excavated ruins of an Incan fortress with guides on weekends.

Post Orientation Program

New arrivals and their dependents are oriented to the Embassy's functions by the Community Liaison Office and individual sponsors. Newcomers are introduced to each office and agency of the Mission by their sponsors and receive a comprehensive orientation kit of policies and notices, a map, a city guide, and other helpful information. Immediate supervisors also help newcomers settle into life in Quito.

The post Spanish-language program offers daily classes at the Embassy, if funds are available. All eligible employees and their adult dependents are encouraged to attend.

Recreation and Social Life

Sports

Soccer is Ecuador's most popular sport, and games are played in Quito year round at the Olympic Stadium. Bullfights are also popular. In December a series of bullfights is held to celebrate Quito Days, and some of the world's leading bullfighters perform here then.

Those interested in outdoor and indoor sports will not lack for opportunity in Ecuador. A tennis court and swimming pool at the Ambassador's residence are available to all Mission personnel. Local parks are fairly well kept and widely used on weekends. Tennis, racquetball, and squash courts; bowling alleys; basketball courts; and an ice skating rink are available. North American instructors give classes in gymnastics, yoga, and aerobic exercises. Judo and karate are taught at the YMCA. Volleyball is very popular, and Mission teams play softball and basketball. Bicycling is possible in the parks, but dangerous on the roads. Flying lessons are available. There is a small hang-gliding group. Several private clubs in and outside of the city have dining facilities, tennis courts, golf courses, and stables. Transients can join these clubs at costs ranging from $20 to $180 a month, plus initiation fees.

Opportunities for horseback riding abound. Buying and maintaining a horse is much less expensive than in the U.S. Lessons are available at different clubs, and riding competitions are held monthly. Polo players will find a small but enthusiastic group of colleagues in Quito.

Quito and its environs have several places for swimming. Swimming memberships are available at the Hotels Colon and Quito. The Los Chillos Valley, south of Quito, has several pools and beautiful country clubs. Lago San Pablo, an hour's drive north of Quito, offers opportunities for wind surfing, water skiing, and boating.

Fishing enthusiasts can enjoy excellent freshwater and deep-sea fishing in Ecuador. Off the coast, deep-sea tackle is needed for the abundant marlin, tuna, dorado, and other species. Areas close to Quito have good stream and lake fishing for bass and trout. The best trout waters are high, in cold and rainy areas where parkas and waterproof pants are essential.

A license to fish anywhere in Ecuador costs about $5.

Good dove shooting can be found near Quito; partridge may be hunted in areas several hours away by car, and duck shooting is good on the coast. The Hunting and Fishing Club has a new clubhouse and excellent shooting range at Lago San Pablo. An overnight trip by car and horseback takes the hunter into good deer hunting country. Guns must be registered. Advice and assistance in registration may be obtained from the Embassy or USAID. (**See also** Firearms and Ammunition.)

Mountain climbing, hiking, and camping are popular. Most of the mountains are not technically difficult, but the altitude, ranging from 14,000 to 20,000 feet, can cause problems. There are several climbing clubs. Mules and guides can be hired in villages near Chimborazo, Cotopaxi, Cayambe, and Tungurahua. Crude "refugios" on these mountains offer shelter and cooking facilities. No one skis in Ecuador; the snow-covered peaks are steep and laced with crevasses.

Ecuador is a paradise for the amateur photographer. Black-and-white, Kodachrome, and Ektachrome color film can be processed locally within a few days, but quality may be poor. Making pictures from slides is expensive. Most Mission personnel have film processed in the U.S. via APO. Although the IPS stocks a supply of film, bring extra film with you.

Include all your sports equipment in your household effects.

Touring and Outdoor Activities

Almost every corner of the country offers opportunities for interesting exploration. Anyone planning to take advantage of all possibilities will want to use a Jeep or four-wheel-drive vehicle. Most sightseeing can be done on long weekends.

Less than an hour's drive north of Quito is the equatorial monument at "Mitad del Mundo," marking the division between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Two hours from Quito is Otavalo, home of Indians known throughout the continent for their weaving. Their colorful Saturday morning market is a must for tourists. The towns of Cotacachi and San Antonio de Ibarra, also near Quito, are known for leatherwork and woodcarving.

About 3 hours by car south of Quito on the Pan American Highway is Ambato, Ecuador's fourth largest city, which has an annual festival of fruits and flowers. The region is known for its rug factories. Southeast of Ambato is the secluded and peaceful town of Banos, perched on the eastern edge of the Andean plateau at the foot of the Tungurahua volcano. Like many other resort towns in the mountains, Banos is known for its thermal springs. Metropolitan Tours offers an interesting trip by train from Quito to the colonial city of Riobamba, continuing through this area by bus with stops at the local Indian markets.

Trips can be made by road or air into the Oriente and the jungle in which the Jivaro and Auca Indians live. The low-lying Tropics are a pleasant contrast to Quito's cool climate. Metropolitan Tours operates a river boat trip down the Rio Napo, with excursions into the jungle, and dugout canoe rides. Visitors can reach the frontier oil towns by bus over rough roads if they prefer not to fly.

In the southern part of the country lies Cuenca, Ecuador's third largest and perhaps most picturesque city, known for its artisan work, handwoven rugs, and woolens. Ruins of an ancient Inca fortress are nearby. The province of Loja, in the southernmost part of Ecuador, is famous for the town of Vilcabamba, whose residents are known for their longevity.

West of Quito, 3 hours by car down the Andean slope, is Santo Domingo de los Colorados, home of Indians who traditionally color their hair and skin with natural pigments. The area offers a wide variety of tropical fruits and other products. Further down the road, 6–8 hours by car from Quito, is Guayaquil, the nation's largest city. Up and down the coast are beaches, some deserted, some dirty, some beautiful, and some highly urbanized that offer a pleasant reprieve from Quito's altitude.

The Galapagos Islands, 600 miles off the coast, are famous for their wildlife. In recent years Ecuador has taken great care to preserve the flora and fauna of the islands, licensing and controlling the tourist industry that flourishes there. A proper tour of the islands takes at least a week. Ships operating in the tourist trade range from converted fishing sloops with room for no more than six passengers to luxurious cruise vessels offering all the comforts of a large hotel.

Entertainment

Quito has over a dozen comfortable cinemas that show films in their original languages with Spanish subtitles. At least half the films are American, and major releases usually arrive in Quito within a year of their premiere in the U.S. The Cine Colon, known for the high quality of its programming, presents several festivals of foreign films each year. The Casa de la Cultura also presents foreign film series in conjunction with various embassies.

The Teatro Nacional Sucre is the site of most important musical and artistic events. The National Symphony Orchestra offers an annual series of concerts, often with guest artists and conductors. Live theater is active in Quito, with several amateur and semiprofessional groups presenting works in

Panoramic view of the church and convent of Guapulo outside Quito.

Spanish. An English-language amateur group, the Pichincha Players, presents one or two plays or musicals a year.

Many talented groups of Ecuadorean musicians offer concerts and perform in the late-night folk music houses. The music of the Andes is especially known for its use of pipes, guitars, percussion, and the "charango," a mandolin-like instrument fashioned from the body of an armadillo. For those who prefer a different kind of popular music, several good discotheques are in town.

Quito has a growing number of nightclubs, most of which are small. Elaborate floor shows and large orchestras are rare, although Ecuador is on the circuit for touring Latin American musical spectaculars. Casinos in the Quito and Colon Hotels and the Chalet Suisse have slot machines and roulette, blackjack, and dice tables.

The city has an unusually large variety of good restaurants featuring Ecuadorean and international cuisines. Prices are reasonable, ex-

cept for wine, which is imported and overpriced. A number of U.S.-style fast food restaurants offer hamburgers, pizza, and fried chicken for those suffering from culture shock.

Quito, Guayaquil, and Cuenca have annual "festival day" celebrations with fireworks and dancing in the streets on the last nights.

Social Activities

No formal organizations exist exclusively for Americans, but many opportunities exist for U.S. citizens to meet and work with Ecuadoreans and foreign nationals. Quito has 44 resident and 15 nonresident embassies. A Consular Corps group and Diplomatic Association meet monthly. Membership in private clubs facilitates contact with influential Quito residents.

Several womens clubs devote themselves to charitable works and social gatherings. The Damas Norteamericanas y Britanicas runs a well-stocked library and supplies funds for many local charities with profits made in their Thrift Shop. Women officers or wives of officers on the diplomatic list may join the Damas Diplomaticas as active members; other Embassy women may join as associates. The Women's Christian Fellowship Group holds monthly meetings, weekly Bible study groups, and occasionally sponsors trips and seminars.

The Ecuadorean-American Chamber of Commerce has a large and growing membership, including many prominent Ecuadorean and U.S. resident business representatives. Each month the organization sponsors a luncheon with a well-known speaker.

The Rotary and Lions Clubs are active. The Ecuadorean Canine Association sponsors dog shows, registers purebreds, and is involved in other activities. Membership is open to all who wish to join. There is an active Ecuadorean Scout organization for boys and girls but no English-speaking group at this time. All personnel and dependents can participate in cultural activities such as art exhibits, folk dancing, archeological tours, lectures, concerts, and many other events.

Official Functions

Nature of Functions

Senior personnel on the diplomatic list are involved in the usual number and types of diplomatic functions. Other personnel are involved less often. The current custom in Ecuador for National Day celebrations is a lunchtime reception for the diplomatic corps and government officials.

Standards of Social Conduct

Newcomers and spouses are introduced to the Ambassador and DCM within a few days of arrival, usually by their immediate supervisors. Appointments may be made through the Ambassador's protocol secretary.

Mission personnel should consult with their supervisors concerning current policy on other formal calls. Diplomatic and consular officers are announced to the Foreign Ministry by note. Cards are not dropped in Quito, but officers may use from 50 to 100 calling cards per year, and spouses will need a small supply. Calling cards of acceptable quality are printed or engraved here at reasonable cost. It is the custom in Ecuador for high-ranking officials to send flowers when invited to someone's house for the first time, and cards are needed on these occasions.

Special Information

Military Personnel

General information about Quito in this report applies in all respects to officers and enlisted personnel assigned to the Office of the Defense Attache, the U.S. Military Liaison Office, and IAGS. Military personnel will need summer uniforms. For specific uniform requirements, consult the office to which you are assigned. The DAO has some appliances and furniture available to assigned personnel. Correspond with the DAO for details.

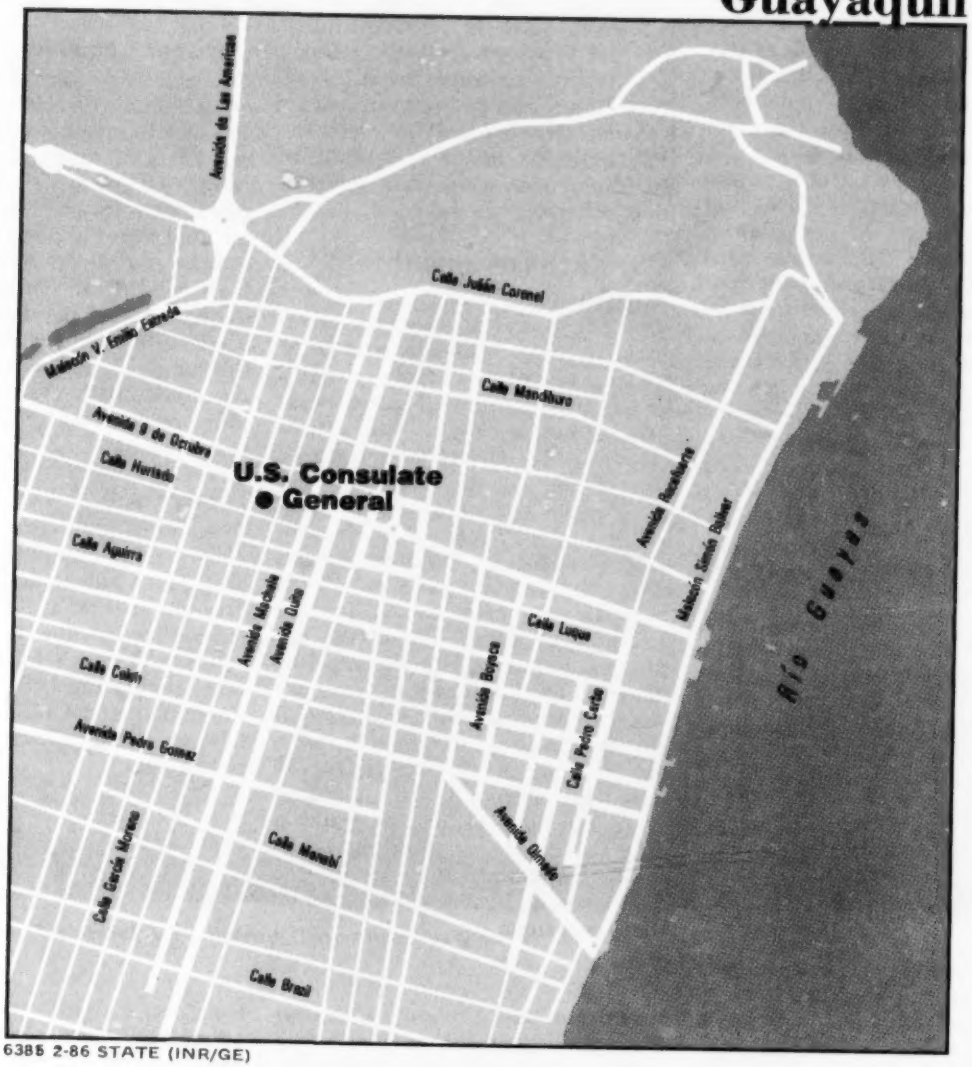
Contract Personnel

U.S. contract personnel are normally eligible for such Mission services as IPS membership, use of Embassy-leased apartments for temporary housing, check cashing, snackbar, library, and Chancery-purified water and ice supply. They are not eligible for APO and Health Unit privileges. Third-country national contract personnel are given a courtesy identity card and have the same privileges as U.S. contract personnel, with the exception that they are not usually eligible for IPS membership.

Insurance

The high incidence of theft in American households and on shipping docks has made personal property insurance an important consideration for newly assigned personnel. Arrange for insurance before leaving the U.S. The Military Personnel and Civilian Employees Claims Act of 1964 provides basic protection.

Guayaquil



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Consulate General

Guayaquil

This sea level city, formally named Santiago de Guayaquil, was founded in 1538. Tropical, bustling, and noisy, Guayaquil is located on the Guayas River and boasts a large deepwater seaport on the saltwater estuary 8 miles south of the center of town. The city is located 50 miles upriver from the Pacific Ocean. A few small hills rise abruptly in the northern residential section; the rest of the city is flat. With a population approaching 2 million, the city is growing rapidly, with extensive slums expanding on stilts over tidal estuaries. The city also has modern residential areas of attractive walled homes and gardens and many multistory apartment and condominium buildings. Temperatures are generally pleasant during the dry season from June to December and no worse than Washington, D.C., in midsummer and during the remainder of the year. Mosquitoes are common during the rainy season from January to May.

The business center is becoming increasingly modern, though unpainted cane buildings still exist side by side with modern high-rise structures on some streets. Many of the streets are in deplorable condition during most of the year despite patchwork repairs, but a recent campaign to clean up the city and repair the streets has made a noticeable improvement.

Guayaquil's vital commercial activity and frequently turbulent political life can help make for an interesting tour, though street crime and burglaries have become a serious problem. The American community of several thousand new and long-time residents is well integrated with a much larger number of dual nationals, third-country citizens, and Ecuadoreans who were educated or worked in the U.S. Post personnel who speak good Spanish have little difficulty in expanding their friendships into the open and hospitable community at large.

U.S. Consulate, Quayaquil.

The Post and Its Administration

The Consulate General, located on the corner of 9 de Octubre and Garcia Moreno on the fringe of the downtown area (telephone 511-570), is open 5 days a week from 8 am to 5 pm. The air-conditioned building has seven furnished apartments on the upper floors for American personnel. Personnel also have access to an apartment converted into an Employees' Recreation Center with bar, billiards, video room, and terrace that can be used for parties. The Consulate General, DEA, USIS, and US/FCS offices are located on the first three floors.

The international airport is about 1½ miles from the Consulate General. Eastern Airlines is the only American flag line serving

Skyline of Quayaquil, Ecuador's largest city, principal port, and commercial center.

Guayaquil. Taxis are readily available, but new personnel will be met if advance notice is received at the post.

No regularly scheduled U.S. flag passenger ship service exists, but passage might be obtained if plans now under study lead to service by scheduled U.S. flag freighters that would carry up to 12 passengers.

Housing

Temporary Quarters

Personnel are housed either in one of the Consulate General's furnished apartments or a suitable hotel until permanent housing is found. The Oro Verde, Ramada Inn, Continental, La Moneda, and Grand Guayaquil Hotels are fairly new and air-conditioned. These hotels have restaurants, private baths, and telephones. The new Oro Verde Hotel is adjacent to the Consulate General and offers special rates to U.S. Government personnel who make their reservations through the Consulate General.

Permanent Housing

A four-bedroom, four-and-one-half baths, furnished residence for the principal officer is government owned. Though on a small lot, it is modern and imaginatively designed with a small swimming pool and bath house, as well as three rooms with one-and-one-half baths for servants.

The Consulate General building has two 3-bedroom apartments, five 2-bedroom apartments, and one efficiency. All the apartments are reserved for permanent housing except for the efficiency, which is used as a transient apartment. None of the apartments has facilities for live-in servants. Each apartment has a separate adjustable air-conditioning unit, electric stove with oven, kitchen cabinets, electric refrigerator and freezer, and all basic furnishings. A communal laundry area with washing machines and dryers is provided. The post has recently converted all other housing for State Department personnel to government-furnished and -leased quarters, so only a limited shipment of household effects is authorized. Quarters for other agency personnel are government leased, but not government furnished. Section chiefs and families with children are usually provided individual houses or apartments.

Welcome Kits are available for personnel in transient status. These kits include such items as dinnerware, stainless flatware, cookware, iron and ironing board, blankets, sheets, pillows and pillow cases, and towels. These items are normally available only until the arrival of your unaccompanied airfreight. Ship airfreight to arrive as soon as possible after your arrival.

Furnishings

As indicated above, all State Department housing and all apartments in the Consulate General building have government furnishings. It is not necessary for State personnel to bring any furniture except small appliances, what is needed for decoration, or other items required by personal taste. The principal officer's home also has china, silverware, cooking utensils, and linens.

Furnishings provided for State personnel occupying government-leased quarters include major appliances: stove, refrigerator, freezer, washer, dryer, and vacuum cleaner. Air-conditioners are normally provided for the living room, dining room, and occupied bedrooms. Furniture is provided for living room and dining room. Master bedrooms have queen-sized bedroom sets; all other occupied bedrooms have twin beds. A limited number of den sets are available. Curtains and

draperies are provided within budget limitations. Towels and linens are not provided.

As of May 1985, other agencies at post (DEA, USIS, and US/FCS) were providing major appliances, including stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer, and window air-conditioning units. Other furniture and furnishings may become available. Personnel are urged to check with parent agencies or contact the post administrative officer to determine what items are available.

Overstuffed items, leather, and books may mildew if they are not in air-conditioned rooms during the wet season. Termites, moths, and crickets can also be a problem. Wrought iron, marble, wicker, and hardwood furniture can be made to order, but it is often expensive. Furthermore, workers are not always dependable, and quality is frequently inferior. The buyer must beware of wooden items bought here, since wood may not be properly dried and tends to crack when moved to a different climate.

Utilities and Equipment

City water piped to houses is chlorinated and pure when it leaves the plant but is considered contaminated because of the old pipes and their proximity to sewer lines. Drinking water for those living outside the Consulate General building is generally boiled, brought from the Consulate General (which has its own purification system), or purchased from local distributors of bottled water. The lessor usually provides an electric water heater in rented houses and apartments. Some areas of the city have frequent low pressure or water shortages because of distribution problems.

U.S. standard two-wire, 110v, 60-cycle current is available for lights and appliances, including refrigerators and freezers. Water heaters, electric stoves, and some air-conditioners require U.S. standard three-wire, 220v–240v, 60-cycle current, which is also available. Voltage regulators are recommended to protect specialized electronic equipment such as stereos, home minicomputers, and microwave ovens against voltage fluctuations.

The post provides the following appliances to all eligible personnel: electric stove, refrigerator, automatic washer, electric dryer, freezer, and sufficient room air-conditioners for the living room and all occupied bedrooms. In addition to the appliances furnished by the post, at least one electric fan for the kitchen is useful.

Panoramic view of Ecuador's countryside and villages.

Food

Many tropical fruits and vegetables are available year round, others in season. Some Temperate Zone fruits and vegetables are brought to Guayaquil from the cool mountain valleys. Prices are reasonable but rise during the rainy season.

Fish, including fresh tuna, shrimp, crab, and oyster, are in good supply most of the time and are less expensive than in the U.S. Quality varies. Beef and pork, somewhat limited as to cuts and of an inferior quality, are almost always available at prices often below those in the U.S. Chickens and turkeys raised locally are available at higher prices than in the U.S. Shortages of dairy products are periodic. Milk may be diluted and is not always safe. Good quality powdered milk is available at higher prices than in the U.S. Butter and cheese are of satisfactory quality. All imported foods are expensive. Local coffee and chocolate are not of the best quality. Soft drinks and beer are inexpensive, once the bottles are purchased. As a rule of thumb, bring in quantity anything nonperishable that you use often, such as Baker's chocolate, peanut butter, spices, cereal, or special cleaning aids.

Upon payment of a membership deposit, U.S. Government personnel assigned to Guayaquil can join the Embassy IPS. Orders are shipped by truck from Quito. The IPS is continually expanding its range of items and can provide caselot special orders.

Guayaquil has several good restaurants, fast food eateries, and ice cream shops with prices similar to those in Washington, D.C. Sanitation is almost never up to U.S. standards, however, and salads, raw seafood, and ice can cause stomach and intestinal problems.

Clothing

Men. Bring a dinner jacket (generally a dark jacket is used) only if you already have one. Men's clothing can be made here from local or imported material, and tailors range from very reasonable to expensive. Lightweight suits, sports coats, and slacks are worn in Guayaquil. A few dark conservative suits and some sporty outfits will fill most needs. Officers dealing constantly with the public, such as the principal officer and visa officers, wear coat and tie at work. Other officers and support staff often wear the local "guayabera" sport shirts to the office.

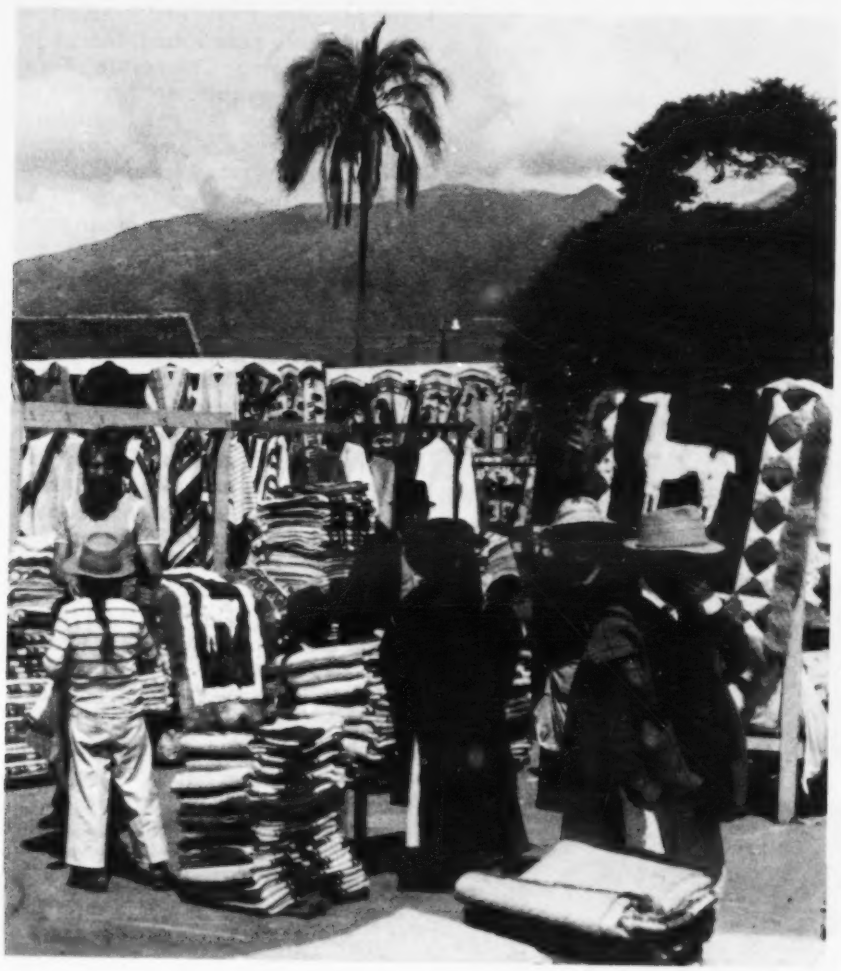
Women. You will need all your summer clothing here. Officers dealing constantly with the public, such as the principal officer and visa officers, wear dresses, suits, blouses, and skirts. For cocktail parties, dinners, and dances, the latest fashions are worn. Long-sleeved cocktail dresses for evening are comfortable most of the year.

Except for brimmed sun hats, hats are not worn. Sundresses and sandals are standard. Bring washable cottons, synthetics, and cotton blends. Tailors here make all types of clothing. Bring fabric and notions from the U.S. Cotton is more comfortable than synthetic material in this hot climate. Bring an ample supply of underwear for everyone in the family.

Stoles, light sweaters, and scarves are worn at night during the cooler season. Bring one or two autumn or winter outfits and party clothes for visits to Quito, Cuenca, and other mountain areas. Jackets and woolens are needed at that altitude, and warm slacks are useful. A great variety of beautiful stoles and ponchos are sold here at low prices.

Children. Bring a good supply of cotton clothing, shoes, and sneakers. Blue jeans, warm jackets, rainwear, and sweaters will also be needed.

Colegio Americano and the Inter-American Academy both require school uniforms. Colegio Americano recommends buying the girls' uniforms here as well as the PE uniform and shoes. The boys' uniforms are blue jeans and plain white shirts. The required pocket patch may be purchased at the school. Black dress shoes are required. The uniform for the Inter-American Academy may be purchased in the U.S. Girls wear dark blue jeans, slacks, or skirts with plain white shirts, and a blue jacket or sweater in cool weather. Shoes may be either leather or blue sneakers; sandals are not permitted. Boys wear blue jeans, white shirts, blue sneakers, and a blue jacket or sweater. The PE uniform for both boys and girls is plain blue shorts, white tee shirts, and blue or white sneakers. Reasonably priced blue jeans are available locally.



Native handicrafts are featured in Indian markets throughout Ecuador.

Supplies and Services

Supplies

Most U.S. and European toiletries, cosmetics, cigarettes, and medicines are available, sometimes at less cost that in the U.S. Aluminum foil, plastic wrap, waxed paper, and other paper products are more

expensive than in the U.S., and of inferior quality. Bring an extra supply of toys and gifts for children. A charcoal grill is useful. Bring entertainment equipment. Video clubs abound in Guayaquil, with tape rentals from 60¢ to 90¢. Clubs provide both Beta and VHS, but Beta is the most common. An ice chest and beach supplies, particularly suntan lotion, are recommended.

Basic Services

The city has adequate shoe repair, drycleaning, radio, phonograph, and TV repair shops. Mechanics can repair most makes of automobiles, but services are from fair to unreliable and slow. Automobile parts are readily available, but expensive.

A number of good tailors are available to make or alter clothing. Local hairdressers are good and reasonably priced.

Domestic Help

Single persons usually find they need at least a part-time maid, and many families have more than one servant. Good, dependable servants are difficult to find. Servants' wages will run from $60 a month for a general maid to $70 a month for a cook, plus food and uniforms. (For details, see Domestic Help—Quito.)

Religious Activities

The prevalent faith is Roman Catholic. One Catholic church offers an English Mass. Several Protestant denominations are represented in Guayaquil, but only the Guayaquil English Fellowship, an interdenominational group, offers services in English. Several branches of the Mormon church are here, with services in Spanish.

Education

Dependent Education

Educational facilities through grade 8 are generally adequate. Some personnel place their high school students in boarding schools in the U.S. In Quito, Alliance Academy offers boarding facilities, and students may commute to Guayaquil for the weekend on the half-hour-long jet flight. (See Education—Quito.)

Colegio Americano, with kindergarten through grade 12, has a student enrollment of 1,300. It has a bilingual program and operates from a spacious campus a few kilometers north of the urban areas. The school year is May through January. The prevalent language is Spanish, but in 1986 the school plans to begin an all English program from kindergarten through grade 2, and add a grade each year thereafter. The Colegio Americano is accredited by the Southern Association of Schools and by the Ecuadorean Ministry of Education.

Inter-American Academy was formed in 1978 when the former International Section split off from the Colegio Americano. It is located on a hill overlooking Urdesa, only 15 minutes from the homes of most Americans. It has kindergarten through grade 12 and is the only English-speaking school in Guayaquil at the high school level. It is accredited by the Southern Association of Schools and offers an International Baccalaureate diploma. The Academy's diploma and credits are not recognized by the Ecuadorean Ministry of Education because it does not follow the Ministry's curriculum or calendar. The school year for the Academy starts in September. The 1985 student population was about 185. The school has limited athletic and laboratory facilities.

Escuela Moderna, in the residential section of Urdesa, is a primary school through grade 6, directed by an Ecuadorean graduate of Columbia University's School of Education. Studies are 50% in English (social studies, language, art, sciences, and arithmetic) and 50% in Spanish (Ecuadorean studies required by the Ministry of Education). The school year runs from May to January.

In addition to these schools, several Roman Catholic private schools have good reputations, but classes are taught entirely in Spanish. An excellent local German school is available for U.S. dependents who know German, but it is expensive and usually has a long waiting list.

Several nursery schools are available. Several Spanish-language universities exist, but the largest, University of Guayaquil, is frequently disrupted by political demonstrations, including occasional gun battles between rival groups of students.

Recreation and Social Life

Sports

Swimming, tennis, basketball, soccer, baseball, volleyball, jogging, bowling, and golf are enjoyed in the Guayaquil area. Lessons are available. The Tennis Club and the Country Club have swimming pools, but membership is expensive. The pool at the Oro Verde Hotel, adjacent to the Consulate General, offers club memberships to Consulate General personnel at $170 a year for families and $130 for singles. A municipal olympic-sized public pool with adjacent running track is located nearby. The Clubs Nacional and Garibaldi are moderately priced alternatives with tennis and swimming facilities. A few families have small private pools.

Hunting in Ecuador, particularly bird shooting, can be excellent. In the coastal region around Guayaquil, dove and duck shooting can be spectacular, since there are more than six species of dove and three major species of nonmigrating ducks. The rice-growing regions are home to the large Muscovy duck and wintering grounds for blue teal. White-tailed deer and collared peccary are game animals hunted locally. Other game includes the jaguar, but hunting is difficult in the thick swamps and rugged hills. Ecuador has no specified hunting season or bag limit. Hunters should bring all their equipment, including ammunition.

The Mountain Climbing Association in Quito draws members from Guayaquil.

See also Sports—Quito.

Touring and Outdoor Activities

Two beaches, Playas and Salinas, offer a cooler climate and swimming, fishing, and boating. Playas is 50 miles southwest of Guayaquil. A small, marginally adequate hotel is situated on a wide, sandy beach with a sheltered picnic ground. Furnished houses are sometimes available for rent on or near the beach. Beaches are not crowded from May to December. The sun and the ocean currents should be treated with respect. The strong sunshine can cause severe sunburn even after short exposure. Ocean currents are very strong in the area, and bathers must exercise caution.

Salinas, a resort town 85 miles west of Guayaquil, can be reached by asphalt road in 2 hours. There are more hotels, restaurants, and clubs here than in Playas. Sailing and boating facilities are good. There are good beaches along the coast to the north and a modern hotel nearby on the south coast. Salinas offers some of the best sport fishing (marlin and sailfish) in the world. Charters are expensive, but many fishing enthusiasts find it reasonable to go in groups. Good snorkeling is found among the coral formations in bays north of Salinas.

Over a long weekend, an excursion to the mountains becomes practical and offers a pleasant change in both climate and culture. The nearest city in the Sierra is Cuenca, about a 4- or 5-hour drive from Guayaquil. The road is subject to occasional landslides (especially during the rainy season) and fog banks, but the trip offers spectacular views. The train trip to Quito was a widely known tourist attraction, but service was suspended in early 1983 due to floods, and it is uncertain if service will ever be resumed.

Entertainment

Guayaquil has many movie theaters, some air-conditioned, that show fairly recent movies in English with Spanish subtitles. Concerts and plays are occasionally given by traveling American, Asian, or European groups. A Binational Center (Centro Ecuatoriano-Norteamericano), has an air-conditioned auditorium for public gatherings and cultural presentations and a lending library with more than 4,000 volumes. Its small membership fee offers access to special programs, including movies, speakers, courses, and other activities. The Guayaquil Players, an English-language amateur theater group, stages productions two or three times a year.

Small but good collections of archeological antiquities are located in the Casa de la Cultura, the Municipal Museum, and the Museum of the Banco del Pacifico. Several small art galleries have weekly exhibits of artists from Ecuador and other Latin American countries.

Guayaquil's Independence Day, October 9, is the most important local holiday. Indian festivals and markets can be seen all year by driving into the Andes. Horse races with pari-mutuel betting are held on Sundays throughout the year. Polo games and soccer games are held in season. Several hotels operate casinos. Bullfights are held twice a year.

Social Activities

About 2,500 U.S. citizens live in Guayaquil, providing a good opportunity for socializing with other North Americans. The International Society holds monthly dinners and several dances during the year. Numerous opportunities exist to meet and work with Ecuadoreans and foreign nationals. The American-British Club is now the ABC International Women's Club. The Consular Corps is open to all consuls and vice consuls for an initiation fee of $60 and a monthly fee of $15. The club also has a womens auxiliary. Many Ecuadoreans have attended schools in the U.S. and welcome association with North Americans. Guayaquilenos are especially open and hospitable.

Official Functions

Nature of Functions

Most consular personnel are involved in some official functions. Dark business suits or appropriate dress are customary for such occasions unless other attire is specified. For weddings after 10 pm (a traditional hour), tuxedos for men and formal dresses for women are customary.

Standards of Social Conduct

After arrival, consular personnel should ask their immediate superior for current policy on formal calls. The Consulate General has a pamphlet to clarify and simplify social procedures at post. This pamphlet is included in the orientation kit given to all new arrivals.

The consul general may need about 500 cards for each tour; most other officers need about 200 each. The chief of the Consular Section and BPAO should bring from 300 to 400 cards. Calling cards and invitation cards of an acceptable quality can be printed locally at reasonable prices. Engraved cards are not necessary.

Typical Indian folklore dance in one of Ecuador's provinces.

Above: Besides traditional Indian food markets, Ecuador has modern supermarkets. Below: An outside food market in Quito.

Notes For Travelers

Getting to the Post

Several important guidelines must be followed when shipping cars, unaccompanied baggage, household effects, and airfreight to Ecuador. Surface shipments should be consigned as follows:

For Embassy Personnel

American Embassy
Quito, Ecuador
For: (Name)
Via Guayaquil

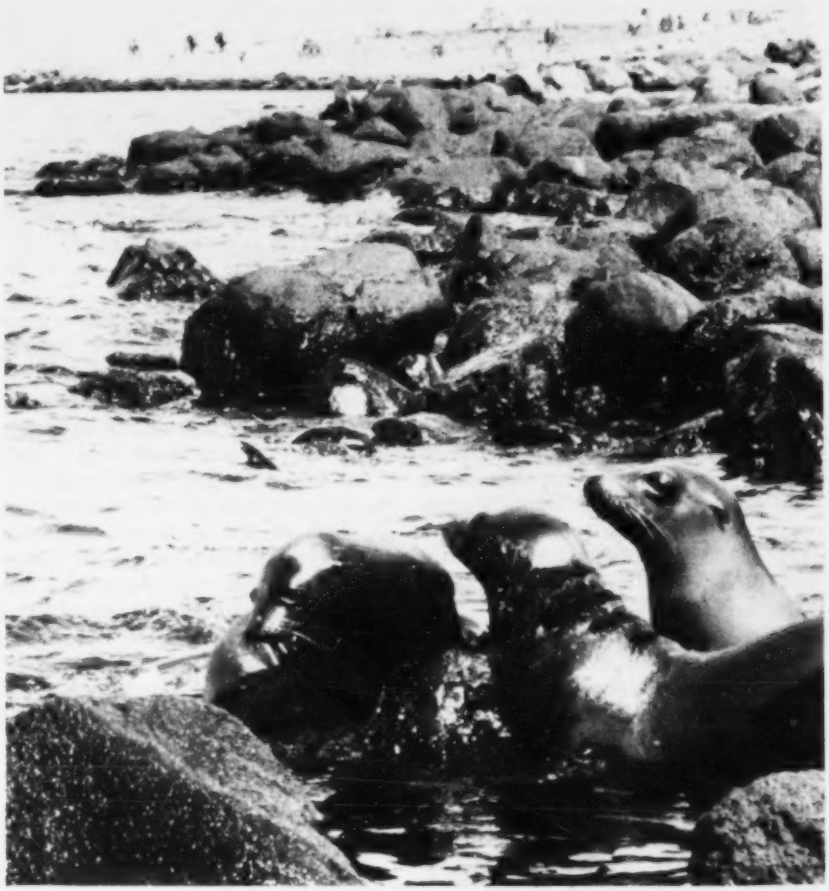
For USAID Personnel (Quito)

USAID
c/o American Embassy
Quito, Ecuador
Via Guayaquil
For: (Name)

For Consulate General Personnel

American Consulate General
Guayaquil, Ecuador
For: (Name)

Shipments expected to arrive by air should bear the same markings, with the exception that the label "Via Guayaquil" should be deleted.



The Galapagos Islands offer an amazing variety of wildlife.

Customs, Duties, and Passage

Customs and Duties

Accompanied Baggage. Customs officials normally do not inspect the luggage of diplomats arriving in Ecuador. If your arrival time is known to the post, you will be met by the CLO coordinator and/or another American employee acting as a "sponsor," who will help you with immigration and customs formalities.

Airfreight and Household Effects. Free entry of "used household effects" is permitted during the first 120 days after arrival. If effects arrive more than 120 days after the employee, the Embassy must seek special approval from the Foreign Ministry for their importation. Employees planning to take deferred home leave some time after arrival at post should keep in mind the 120-day restriction on free importations of unaccompanied effects.

Shipments of all sizes, including large steel or wooden liftvans, can be accommodated at all points of entry. Wooden boxes used for small shipments should be heavily lined with waterproof paper. Plastic and wooden liftvans should be plastic-lined and have well-protected roofs in case the vans are left uncovered. For the same reason, individual items should also be wrapped in plastic. At times shipments of household effects and of airfreight have suffered extensive water damage while awaiting transshipment or customs clearance. Water damage has occurred because the Customs Service stored shipments outside the crowded Ecuadorean customs warehouses. At other times, damage appears to have occurred in other ports, including Miami.

Ecuadorean law and Mission regulations require that duty-free imports brought into Ecuador be for personal use only and that they not exceed reasonable needs. Whenever possible, packing lists and bills of lading should carry the heading "Used Household Effects." Major appliances and electronic equip-

ment such as stereos are regarded with particular sensitivity by Ecuadorean authorities. These items are limited by the Law on Diplomatic Privileges to one of each per family. Those receiving appliances on loan should not bring these items to post.

In order to obtain a duty-free decree for employees' personal possessions—both unaccompanied airfreight and household effects—the Mission must submit a request to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Finances. Approval of this request now takes a month, during which time the effects remain in storage at Customs facilities. Ecuadorean regulations require that this request include complete details concerning the shipment, including consignor, consignee, weight, means of shipment, date of arrival, commercial invoices for any newly purchased items, and a **detailed** list of contents. If you can provide the post with copies of relevant documents by mail through the APO address, preliminary arrangements can be set up. You should hand-carry original documents to post. The Foreign Ministry will **not** accept requests for clearance before your arrival in Ecuador.

In addition to the duty-free importation of used household effects for the employee's initial settling in, the Ecuadorean Government grants a yearly importation allowance (cupo) to those Mission employees with diplomatic titles or their equivalents (in the case of USAID employees). The dollar value of allowable duty-free importations varies according to the employee's rank and may be used to import items not brought as used household effects within the first 120 days at post. As of the date of this report, cupo allowances for the first 12 months at post are as indicated in the box below.

For the second and each succeeding year, cupo allowances are approximately one-half of the dollar amounts listed above. Cupo may not be accumulated from year to year. The allowances are adjusted from time to time to allow for inflation.

Personnel who do not have cupo privileges must bring all belongings with their initial shipments of household effects or pay duty on items arriving more than 120 days after their entrance on duty. Duty may be more than 100% of CIF value (purchase price plus freight).

IPS at the Embassy uses the cupo system to import food, liquor, and cigarettes. All American employees may join IPS by depositing a refundable fee of $100. Members with diplomatic cupo share part of their duty-free allowances with IPS, so that stock may be imported in their names.

Category	Title/Rank	First Year Cupo
I	Ambassador	$9,000
II	Accredited Charge d'Affaires, Military Attaches with rank of General, Members of Military Missions with rank of General	$7,950
III	Counselors, Military Attaches, Colonels, Lieutenant Colonels, Consuls General	$6,900
IV	First Secretaries, Majors, First Class Consuls	$6,000
V	Second Secretaries, Captains, Consuls	$5,100
VI	Third Secretaries, Civil, Commercial, Cultural, and Press Attaches and other Specialists, Lieutenants, Second Lieutenants, Assistants to Military Attaches, and Vice Consuls	$4,200
VII	Foreign Assistants to Military Attaches ranking below a Second Lieutenant	$3,600

Personal vehicles. The Ecuadorean Government permits the importation of one personal vehicle per employee, but this privilege is controlled by a system of duty-free allowances similar to that described above. No duty is charged if the vehicle imported by the employee does not exceed dollar limits set for the employee's rank. The value of the vehicle is the manufacturer's list price, or "Blue Book" value, including all options. This price **must** be corroborated by the commercial invoice (bill of sale). Ecuadorean customs officials maintain current price books for automobiles. A depreciation factor will be applied if the vehicle is more than 2 years old. Freight costs are not included in the calculation of the value of the vehicle. Only one vehicle may be imported duty free. Motorcycles count as vehicles.

As of the date of this report, the following duty-free allowances were in effect for the importation of vehicles for the use of Mission employees:

Category	POV Limitation
I	No limit; may import two
II	$14,870
III	$13,860
IV	$12,840
V	$11,830
VI	$10,820
VII	$10,170

NOTE: Nondiplomatic personnel are accorded Category VII for the importation of personally owned vehicles on the basis of reciprocity between the U.S. and the Ecuadorean Governments.

If customs authorities decide that the value of the vehicle exceeds the employee's duty-free allowance, duty must be paid on the difference between the vehicle cupo amount and the assessed value plus freight (CIF). The applicable tariff may exceed 300% of this difference. Each employee will be informed of the current applicable allowance in the travel message (TM–2) sent from post.

In order to complete the customs procedures for importing a vehicle, the post must have an original bill of sale or a dealer's invoice listing all options and giving the total

value of the vehicle. This invoice, along with the certificate of origin and the ocean bill of lading, must be submitted to the authorities. If the U.S. Despatch Agent handles the shipment, he or she will obtain the certificate and the bill of lading and forward them automatically to post. The bill of sale should be hand-carried to post, not sent with effects. The Ecuadorean authorities will **not** accept a title registration in lieu of the bill of sale.

Cars are shipped unboxed and may be driven to Quito from Guayaquil, though most employees find it more convenient to have them delivered by truck. All easily removable parts, such as floor mats, cigarette lighters, and outside mirrors, should be sent in household effects in order to avoid pilferage. Surface shipments of vehicles from the U.S. may take 2 months or more. Normally vehicles can be cleared and delivered within 3 weeks after arrival in port.

When a U.S. Despatch Agent undertakes to ship a vehicle, full details about shipment (dates, countries, shipping companies involved, travel order number, and appropriation number) should be provided, and copies should be sent to the Embassy or to USAID, as appropriate. Employees should specify that vehicles be shipped to Guayaquil, **not** to Manta.

Passage

Eastern Airlines flies to Quito from New York, Washington, D.C., and Miami. Flights may stop en route in Panama, Bogota, or Guayaquil. Ecuatoriana flies to Guayaquil and Quito from Miami. Bookings on both airlines should be made well in advance of travel. Personnel should have a valid passport and visa before arriving in country. Ecuadorean officials do grant tourist visas at the airport.

Immigration officials keep the international arrival card on file and return a carbon copy with the traveler's passport. Since you will have to surrender this copy upon leaving Ecuador, staple it to the last page of your passport. If you lose it, you will face a delay of 24 hours or more in obtaining a duplicate.

Quito boasts modern shopping centers and stores.

Pets

Pets may be brought to Ecuador without quarantine if certain requirements are met. You must present a certificate from a registered veterinarian stating that your pet is in good health and that the animal has had vaccinations for rabies, leptospirosis, and distemper within the previous year. This certificate must be dated no more than 3 weeks prior to your date of arrival. Bring the original certificates and a notarized copy. If the pet arrives on the same flight, you can clear it immediately. If not, retain one set of papers and turn the other over to GSO so that the necessary arrangements can be made. Pets should not arrive at post before their owners. It is recommended that reservations for shipping animals be confirmed all the way through.

Firearms and Ammunition

Only the following nonautomatic firearms and ammunition may be brought to Ecuador:

Item	Quantity
Pistols, cal. .22 to .25 or its equivalents	1
Rifles, cal. .22 and/or shotguns	2
Ammunition for above firearms	1,000 rounds

The above-listed firearms and ammunition may be shipped (but not mailed) to post without an export license, provided they are consigned to U.S. personnel for their personal use and not for resale. Prior approval of the Chief of Mission is not necessary provided post is given advance notification. The post will assist you with this procedure.

To take additional firearms and ammunition into the country, you must seek permission of the Chief of Mission in advance. In shipping additional firearms and ammunition from the U.S., you must forward copies of your exchange of correspondence with the Chief of Mission, along with a completed Form DSP-5 (export application) to the Office of Munitions Control (PM/MC), Department of State, Washington, D.C., 20520. The application should include all firearms and ammunition to be shipped to post. The export license issued by PM/MC must be given at time of shipment to the U.S. Despatch Agent who, in turn, will surrender it and other shipping documents to U.S. Customs.

If you receive permission from your next Chief of Mission to ship firearms and ammunition in excess of those prescribed, and will ship them between foreign countries only, no license from PM/MC is necessary.

No Department of State license will be issued if you ship only shotguns (with barrels 18 inches

and longer) and shotgun ammunition in excess of the quantities listed. You must, however, comply with the Chief of Mission's determination and with the export regulations of the Office of Export Control, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Currency, Banking, and Weights and Measures

The Ecuadorean unit of currency is the sucre, designated either "s/" or "$" and issued in bills of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500, and 1,000. One sucre is divided into 100 centavos. Coins are minted in denominations of 50 centavos and 1 sucre.

After several years of relative stability on the exchange market, the sucre has deteriorated in value against the U.S. dollar from s/33–$1 in 1981 to s/120–$1 in 1985.

The metric system is used for both weights and measures, although food is often measured in libras (pounds). The onza (ounce) and the yard (yard) may be used in commerce. In hardware stores, gauges of pipes and fittings are listed in U.S. measurements; the $\frac{3}{4}$ size, for example, is three-fourths of an inch.

Taxes, Exchange, and Sale of Property

Ecuador has a direct sales tax of 5% that is collected on sales of goods and services, except for food items. Diplomatic personnel and diplomatic missions are not exempted from this tax. A 10% service charge is included on all restaurant bills, along with a 5% tax. It is not necessary to tip further, although an extra 5% is always appreciated.

An airport tax of U.S.$5 is charged to all persons leaving Ecuador. A tax of 10% is charged on the purchase of airline tickets when travel originates in Ecuador.

No currency controls exist in Ecuador, and the sucre is traded freely at any of a number of banks and exchange houses. All personnel should maintain accounts in U.S. banks. Some find local sucre accounts useful. A local bank maintains an exchange service during morning hours in the Chancery, and you may cash personal checks, purchase sucres or sucre checks, and buy travelers checks. Mastercard, Visa, American Express, and Diners Club credit cards are honored in many shops and restaurants. Citibank and Bank of America have branches in Quito and Guayaquil.

If departing employees wish to sell their cars in country, they must obtain permission from the Foreign Ministry. The GSO will assist in this procedure. A vehicle admitted into the country duty free cannot be sold tax free until it has been in Ecuador for 2 full years. If the owner is transferred before the end of 2 years, but after the vehicle has been in country for a full year, the vehicle may be sold duty free. If the car has been in country less than 1 year, it may be sold, but a prorated import duty is assessed according to the length of time it has been in Ecuador.

Recommended Reading

These titles are provided as a general indication of the material published on this country. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications.

Alban, Veronica, with photographs by Jean Claude Constant. *Los Andes Ecuatorianos*. Macalban Editores: Guayaquil, 1976. Parallel English text.

American University Foreign Area Studies. *Area Handbook for Ecuador*. U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C., 1976. Gives general background and covers all areas.

Anhalzer, Jorge. *Through the Andes of Ecuador*. Ed. Campo Abierto: Quito, 1983. Mountaineering and snowcapped peaks with beautiful photographs.

Blanksten, George I. *Ecuador: Constitution and Caudillos*. New York: Russell and Russell, 1964. A detailed study of Ecuadorean government and politics.

Bork, Albert William and Georg Maier. *Historial Dictionary of Ecuador*. The Scarecrow Press, Inc.: Metuchen, 1973. A panoramic view of the country from pre-Columbian days with the general political and social organization, the principal zones of archeological investigation, and similar matters of general interest, presented in a dictionary format with concise informative paragraphs.

Brooks, John, ed. *The South American Handbook*. Trade and Travel Publications: England. Handy guide to all Latin American countries. Updated annually and fun to read.

Brooks, Rhoda and Earle. *The Barrios of Manta*. New American Library: New York, 1965. Written by and about Peace Corps volunteers and conditions under which they worked in an Ecuadorean village.

Bustamante, Edgar, ed. *Maravilloso Ecuador*. Circulo de Lectores: Quito, 1978. Essays by contemporary Ecuadorean writers covering the country region by region. Color photographs.

Cueva, Juan. *Ecuador*. Ediciones Libri Mundi: Quito, 1980. Color photographs with captions in Spanish, French, English, and German.

Ecuador: In the Shadow of the Volcanoes. Ediciones Libri Mundi: Quito, 1981. Natural history with lavish photographs.

Eichler, Arthur. *Ecuador: A Land, A People, A Culture*. Ediciones Libri Mundi: Quito, 1982. A small general guidebook.

Elliot, Elizabeth. *The Savage, My Kinsman*. Harper and Brothers: New York, 1961. Deals with the primitive Auca tribe in the Oriente.

Fitch, John S. *The Military Coup D-etat As a Political Process: Ecuador, 1948–1966*. Johns Hopkins University Press: Baltimore, 1977. General consideration of factors leading to coups and specific details on postwar Ecuadorean politics.

Gartelmann, K. D. *Ecuador*. Impresa Mariscal: Quito, 1975;

Colonial Quito was built in the easily-defensible southern end of Pichincha Valley.

rev. ed., 1979. Photographs. Text in Spanish, English, and German.

Hassaurek, Fredrick *Four Years Among the Ecuadoreans*. Southern Illinois University Press: Carbondale, 1967. Edited from the 1867 edition written by the American Consul in Quito; an interesting commentary on Ecuador 100 years ago.

Hickman, John. *The Enchanted Islands: The Galapagos Discovered*. Anthony Nelson Ltd.: England, 1985 History and science with beautiful photographs.

Historiografia Ecuatoriana. Banco Central del Ecuador, Corporacion Editora Nacional: Quito, 1985.

Hurtado, Osvaldo. *Political Power in Ecuador*. 2d English ed. Westview Press: Boulder, 1985. Analysis made by Dr. Hurtado before his election to the vice presidency in 1979 and his ascension to the presidency of Ecuador in 1981. This edition contains updated information on the period since 1979.

Inter-American Development Bank. *Economic and Social Progress in Latin America*. Washington, D.C., 1976.

One of many modern homes in Quito.

Linke, Lilo. *Ecuador: Country of Contrasts*. 3d ed. Royal Institute of International Affairs: London, 1960. A broad study of Ecuador and an excellent basic reference.

Martz, John D. *Ecuador: Conflicting Political Culture and the Quest for Progress*. Allyn and Bacon: Boston, 1972. An overview of political developments in the contemporary period.

McIntyre, Loren. "Ecuador: Low and Lofty Land Astride the Equator." *National Geographic Magazine*. February 1968.

Meggers, Betty. *Ecuador*. Thomas and Hudson: London, 1966. An archeological study of the country and people.

Mills, Nick. *Crisis, Conflicto y Consenso: Ecuador, 1979–84*. Corporacion Editora Nacional: Quito, 1984. An analysis of political relationships during the administrations of Jaime Roldos and Osvaldo Hurtado.

Porras, Pedro. *Arqueologia del Ecuador*. 3d ed. Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Ecuador: Quito, 1984. The most up to date guide to archaeological finds in Ecuador.

Rachoweicki, Rob. *Climbing and Hiking in Ecuador*. Bradt Enterprises: Cambridge, 1984. An excellent small guide.

Reyes, Oscar. *Breve Historia General del Ecuador*. 3 vols. 14th ed. Quito, 1981. A gen-eral, but not brief, history of the country.

Salvat, Juan and Eduardo Crespo, ed. *Arte Contemporaneo de Ecuador* and *Arte Precolombino de Ecuador*. Salvat Editores Ecuatoriana S.A.: Quito, 1977. Amply illustrated texts treating painting, sculpture, and handicrafts.

Thomsen, Moritz. *Living Poor: A Peace Corps Chronicle*. University of Washington Press: Seattle, 1969. An excellent book written about the author's experiences as a Peace Corps volunteer during 4 years in Rio Verde, Ecuador.

Zendegui, Guillermo de, ed. *Image of Ecuador*. Organization of American States: Washington, D.C., September, 1972. A well-written, 24-page summary of Ecuador and its people.

Local Holidays

The following days have been designated public holidays by the Government of Ecuador:

January 1	New Year's Day
March/April	Good Friday
May 1	Labor Day
May 24	Battle of Pichincha
July 24	Bolivar's Birthday
July 25	Founding of Guayaquil (Guayaquil only)
August 10	Independence Day
October 9	Independence of Guayaquil
October 12	Columbus Day
November 2	All Souls' Day
November 3	Independence of Cuenca
December 6	Founding of Quito (Quito only)
December 25	Christmas Day